MONDAY
January 22, 2024

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'NO POLITICAL BOUNDARIES'

Going to a temple is a matter of faith: Pilot

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The unbridled powers of interception

It lacks safeguards to dispel fears of misuse

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FACILE WIN

Djokovic breezes into quarterfinals

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NEARBY

BJP, JD(S) leaders meet to discuss seat-sharing

BENGALURU
Senior leaders of the BJP and the JD(Secular) on Sunday met at the residence of BJP veteran B.S. Yediyurappa to discuss the modalities of seat-saharing and agreed to allow the BJP central leadership to decide on the upcoming election to the Legislative Council. » Page 6

Have suggested shifting BTC to Kunigal farm: CM

BENGALURU
Refusing to comment on the announcement of an integrated township at the historical Kunigal Stud Farm, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Sunday said he had suggested shifting of Bangalore Turf Club (BTC) to Kunigal. » Page 6

Consecration today; PM, priests to lead ceremonies

Over 13,000 security personnel deployed as Ayodhya prepares for the Ram Temple event; 8,000 guests have been invited to attend the ceremony, which is set to begin 20 minutes after noon

Mayank Kumar
LUCKNOW

The temple town of Ayodhya was decked with flowers, filled with bhajans, and covered with a multi-layered security blanket on the eve of the *pran pratishtha*, or consecration ceremony, to be held at the Ram Temple on Monday.

In the culmination of a decades-long religious and political movement to restore the worship of Lord Ram in a new temple at what is considered his birthplace, the rituals to consecrate the idol are expected to begin at 20 minutes past noon in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and almost 8,000 invited guests, and will be watched by lakhs of devotees via live telecast across the world. The temple will be opened to the public the day after the function.

Stage is set: A view of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya on Sunday ahead of its consecration ceremony. PTI

Security blanket

More than 13,000 security personnel have been deployed in Ayodhya. Officers from the National Security Guard and Special Protection Group, commandos of the Central Reserve Police Force, the Uttar Pradesh Special Task Force, the Uttar Pradesh Anti-Terrorist Squad, and the Provincial Armed Constabulary are camping in the district, along with Intelligence Bureau personnel.

Security checks for vehicles and individuals have been implemented across the temple town.

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President writes to PM on event's significance

NEW DELHI
President Droupadi Murmu, in a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday, said the celebratory atmosphere across the country ahead of the consecration of the Ram Temple is an "uninhibited expression of the eternal soul of India". The President also applauded Mr. Modi for his 11-day *anushthan*. » PAGE 13

No nod for any celebratory rally, protest

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State police have not permitted any celebratory procession or protest on Monday while they stepped up patrolling and deployment across Karnataka from Sunday, ahead of the consecration of the Ram Lalla idol at the Ayodhya temple.

Security deployment has been tightened in the communally sensitive coastal Karnataka districts, Shivamogga, Chikkamagaluru, Hubballi, Belagavi, Vijayapura, and some pockets in Bengaluru.

"In the backdrop of the Ram temple inauguration programme in Ayodhya, I have instructed the police to take preventive measures to ensure that no untoward incidents occur in the State and to maintain peace and order," Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said in a statement.

RELATED REPORTS
» PAGE 5

Biren to seek meet with PM as MLAs discuss resignation

The Hindu Bureau
IMPHAL/GUWAHATI

Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh has assured the representatives of 10 non-BJP political parties that he would on Monday seek an appointment with Prime Minister Narendra Modi to discuss the ongoing unrest in the State.

A team comprising the MLAs of the ruling and Opposition parties would rush to New Delhi as soon as the appointment is received, he told the representatives in his office on Sunday night.

During the 90-minute meeting, the representatives of the political parties highlighted the killings of common people and some personnel of the State forces by armed groups.

Earlier in the day, the BJP legislators had a closed-door meeting with the Chief Minister to discuss the possible resignation of the BJP-led Ministry, following pressure allegedly exerted by a radical group. Three MLAs were absent on medical grounds.

"No decision has been taken because we are yet to decide who we should hand over the administration to. People have suffered a great deal for a long time and their conditions should not be overlooked," Mr. Singh said.

N. Biren Singh

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Olympic Qualifiers: what lies ahead for those who did not qualify

India, New Zealand, Italy, Chile and Czechia have to regroup and shift their focus towards Los Angeles 2028; Hockey India President Dilip Tirkey says that the federation has no major concerns about Schopman

Nihit Sachdeva

India captain Savita Punia with head coach Janneke Schopman. PTI

While Germany, USA and Japan booked their spots for Paris 2024 Olympics after grabbing top three spots at the FIH Hockey Olympic Qualifiers in Ranchi, the other five participants – India, New Zealand, Italy, Chile and Czechia – have to regroup and shift their focus towards what lies ahead in the near future with the bigger picture of Los Angeles 2028 in mind.

The host nation, led by goalkeeper Savita Punia and coach Janneke Schopman, had immense support from the crowd at the Marang Gomke Jaipal Singh AstroTurf Stadium. However, the team succumbed under pressure after leading against Germany in the penalty shootout in the semifinals. Turning up in less than 24 hours after that defeat, India failed to break Japan's defence and suffered a 1-0 loss in the bronze medal match, its final chance to qualify for Paris.

India, for now, does not have much time to deeply assess and review where it all went wrong as it prepares to face the US, the Netherlands, Australia and China in its first set of Pro League fixtures from February 3 to 18 in Bhubaneswar and Rourkela. Its next set of games will be in May and June. Hockey India President Dilip Tirkey told *Sportstar* that the federation has no major concerns about Schopman but will look at the future plans and talk to everyone concerned.

Along with India, New Zealand was the favourite to make it to the semifinals from Group B. However, the narrow 1-0 loss to lower-ranked USA in its final group match meant the Black Sticks will miss the Olympics for the first time since 1996. "Against USA, we had enough to win. Maybe, just didn't start well enough but again, it was only 1-0 with half a game to go. We still could have won that game. That's probably the most disappointing game," said coach Phil Burrows after his team beat Italy 3-1 to finish fifth.

For New Zealand, the next assignment is the FIH Nations Cup in June. The winner of that tournament qualifies for next season of the Pro League. Burrows admitted that the Olympic qualifiers could be the last tournament for some players as the team prepares for Los Angeles Olympics. Whether the future plans include captain Olivia Merry (Age 31, Matches - 282), Samantha Chile (Age - 32, Matches 272) and Julia King (Age - 31, Matches - 141) remains to be seen.

Italy, led by 23-year-old forward Federica Carta, finished at the bottom of Group B before clinching its first win of the tournament as it beat Chile in the 5-8 classification. "We knew the group was very strong, but I think we could compete in every match. In the end, our opponents were bigger and better," said Carta, an Italian literature student who plays league hockey for Real Sociedad in Spain.

Chile fancied its chances of qualifying for the Olympics for the first time in history. The Pan American Games bronze medallist, coached by Sergio 'Cachito' Vigil, an Argentine, needed to beat Japan in its last group game to join Germany in the semifinals. However, Jude Menezes' side had too much quality for and easily clinched a 2-0 victory. Chile eventually finished seventh after beating Czechia 1-0.

"It was a tough tournament. All the teams were looking for something very important, which is to qualify for the Olympics and there were only three spots. In the end you had to fight very hard and every detail counted. Rest of the other teams were better in those details in scoring the goals that had to be scored and defended well," said Chile co-captain Camila Caram.

The 34-year-old Caram, who made her Chile debut in 2006, has a two-year-old son named Leon. "Sharing space with the team is always something that I will remember and maybe it won't be repeated again soon," she said.

Chile will next join Italy and New Zealand in the Nations Cup.

World No. 25 Czechia, the lowest-ranked team in the tournament, could not score even once while conceding 21 goals in five games. The side, coached by Gareth Grundie, had nine under-21 players. Only skipper Katerina Lacina, 30, and Adela Lehovkova, 32, had more than 100 caps.

"In the Czech Republic, field hockey is a pretty small sport. It's a family sport and not many players do this sport. It's pretty difficult to have an inner competition in the team but we hope with these tournaments and with these steps we make, we can make hockey more famous and get more young players into this," said Lacina.

Lacina plays league hockey in Belgium and also works in the administration department for a construction company. She had an operation in 2012 for a bone tumour in the head. The bone was replaced by a Titan mesh and ever since, she wears a head guard for protection.

Czechia and Italy will have the EuroHockey Indoor Championship next month and the qualifiers in August for next year's EuroHockey Outdoor Championship.

New Zealand coach Phil Burrows. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT.

THE GIST

- India next faces US, the Netherlands, Australia and China in its first set of Pro League fixtures from February 3 to 18
- New Zealand's next assignment is the FIH Nations Cup in June
- Chile will next join Italy and New Zealand in the Nations Cup
- Czechia and Italy will have the EuroHockey Indoor Championship next month

> We knew the group was very strong, but I think we could compete in every match. In the end, our opponents were bigger and better
>
> **FEDERICA CARTA**
> Italian skipper

Czech Republic skipper Katerina Lacina (blue one wearing the head guard). SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Chile skipper Camila Caram. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

EDUCATIONPLUS

Make way for Maths 2.0

We must strive to modernise Maths education for the 21st century, cultivating spaces where learning the subject becomes a vibrant journey of discovery

GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

Tristha Ramamurthy

Over the last several decades, there has barely been a change in how Maths has been taught in a classroom setting. The approach of solving multiple problems in the notebook and applying formulas without understanding why has stayed consistent.

High-school Maths education now stands at the crossroads of a significant transformation. It's time to advance beyond traditional problem-solving and prime our students for a future shaped by data and patterns. It is not enough just to teach them how to solve numerical problems; we must equip them to apply and connect their learning to the real world.

Making Maths relevant

As educators and leaders, we need to reassess how Maths is being taught and foster our students' ability to do Maths and think mathematically. It's about teaching students to abstract, systematise, and establish connections. When we frame Maths problems in real-world contexts and encourage students to engage in problem-based learning, we ignite curiosity and make Maths relevant. This enables not just the mastery of content but also the development of critical and reflective thinking.

Maths is not limited to pen and paper; it's out there in the world. To give students an opportunity to apply their learning to solve real-world problems, we need to design and transfer learning through authentic tasks that mirror real-world situations. Whether it's designing a sustainable building or analysing market trends, authentic performance tasks demonstrate the real power of Maths and helps enhance learning and shows students the tangible impact of Maths in everyday life and various professions.

Standards-based learning

Having clearly defined standards for instruction, assessment, skills, and content ensures mastery. Integrating standards-based learning into Maths is imperative to guide students into developing the essential core skills. By adhering to these standards, we raise the bar for education and empower students to navigate the academic landscape confidently and proficiently.

The digital age has transformed how we approach education. Technology like virtual labs and visualisation tools bring abstract concepts to life and allow students to engage with the subject in a dynamic and interactive way, making learning both enjoyable and effective.

Discussion is key to building an inclusive Maths classroom that normalises risk-taking and fosters critical thinking. It empowers students by promoting responsibility for their learning and building confidence.

Furthermore, it creates a sense of community, enhances social-emotional learning skills, and encourages consideration of multiple perspectives.

Empowering educators

A vital part of modernising Maths is empowering teachers. Providing them with the latest tools and methodologies enhances the learning experiences and also supports them in guiding students through new and exciting educational landscapes.

Evaluating learning pathways

In rethinking Maths education, we must also evaluate our learning pathways.

The integration of subjects like Data Science and logic with traditional Maths curricula under the National Education Policy (NEP) is a step in this direction. It's about crafting education that is not only academically sound but also deeply connected to the evolving demands of the world.

As we redefine Maths for the 21st century, our goal should be to transform classrooms into dynamic hubs of inquiry and innovation.

We must strive to cultivate spaces where studying Maths becomes a vibrant journey of discovery, analytical thinking, and tackling real-world challenges.

By doing so, we are not just teaching Maths but equipping our students with a toolkit for the future.

The writer is the Founder of Ekya Schools and Provost, CMR University.

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Assess your goals

Uncertain about your career options? Low on self-confidence? This career counselling column may help

OFF THE EDGE
Nandini Raman

I have been working on Big Data Analytics for two years but want to move towards finance. Should I do an MBA in Finance and supplement it with courses such as CFA, FRM? Will an online/ distance education MBA have the same worth as a full-time programme? Ravi

Dear Ravi,

Transitioning from a career in Big Data Analytics to finance is feasible and pursuing an MBA in Finance along with certifications like CFA (Chartered Financial Analyst) and FRM (Financial Risk Manager) can be a strategic move. The choice between online/distance education and a full-time MBA programme depends on your specific circumstances, your preferences, financial situation, and career objectives. Evaluate each programme, and research to make an informed decision. An online MBA allows you to continue working while studying and is cost-effective. A full-time MBA typically offers extensive networking opportunities through in-person classes, group projects, and extracurricular activities. Many have robust placement and internship opportunities. But they are costly and require dedicated time. The combination of an MBA in Finance and CFA/FRM certifications will boost your prospects. CFA is more focused on investment management, while FRM is oriented toward risk management. Your choice should align with the specific area within finance that you aim to pursue.

I am in the first year of a B.Sc. Computer Science programme. What extra courses in Science can I do alongside this? Sreekar

Dear Sreekar,

Your choice of courses should depend on your interests and long-term career goals. Advanced Maths, Statistics, Physics, Electronics, Chemistry, Biology, Environmental Science, Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, Cybersecurity, Data Science, Programming Languages, Web Development, Project Management, Bioinformatics, and Materials Science are all very useful. Consult with academic advisors to see which courses align best with your academic and career objectives.

I have finished Class 12 and am interested in Space Technology. Can I do a Bachelor's in Mechanical Engineering and do Aerospace Engineering for Master's? Deeksha

Dear Deeksha,

A Bachelor's in Mechanical Engineering followed by a Master's in Aerospace Engineering is viable, as it provides a strong foundation in engineering principles and mechanical systems that are highly relevant to the aerospace industry. During your undergraduate studies, consider taking elective courses related to aerospace, aerodynamics or materials used in aerospace applications. Get involved in aerospace-related extracurricular activities, projects, or internships to gain practical experience. A Master's in Aerospace Engineering will offer specialised coursework in areas like aerodynamics, propulsion, space systems, satellite technology, and spacecraft design. Aerospace Engineering offers options across Aerospace Industry, Space Technology, Astronautics, Defence and Military, Research and Development, Private Sector companies, Government Agencies, Academia.

I am in the first year of B.Tech. I want to take the UPSC CSE but people say that it is a tough nut to crack and I should opt for the placement from my degree. Harsha

Dear Harsha,

Pursuing UPSC CSE or finding a job after your B.Tech should be based on your interests, and long-term career goals. The UPSC CSE is a highly competitive exam that demands rigorous preparation. Are you passionate about public service, governance, policy-making and social change? Or are you more inclined towards the engineering and technology sector? Have a plan B in case plan A doesn't work out. Focus on your course on hand and also attend the college placements. The UPSC CSE requires dedicated preparation to succeed. Will you be able to stay financially afloat through this process? Assess if you are ready to invest this time and effort. Your engineering knowledge will be an asset here as it brings valuable analytical and problem-solving skills. There are many reputed coaching centres that will be able to help you understand this much better and assist in developing a structured approach if you are keen to explore this.

Disclaimer: This column is merely a guiding voice and provides advice and suggestions on education and careers.

The writer is a practising counsellor and a trainer. Send your questions to eduplus.thehindu@gmail.com with the subject line Off the Edge

ShriRamotsav

"The construction of Ram Temple is an instrument to unite the country."

- Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

Pran Pratishtha

(Consecration Ceremony)

of

Prabhu Shri Ramlalla idol in
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First among the Saptapuris

In the august presence of

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Information and Public Relations Department, U.P.

Mosquitofish, used to fight mosquitoes, has become invasive in India

Wildlife biologists consider mosquitofish to be among the hundred most detrimental invasive alien species; in India, researchers have found, based on a genetic study, that two species of the fish, *Gambusia affinis* and *Gambusia holbrooki*, had taken over many ecosystems across the country, the former especially in northeast India

M. Nobinraja
G. Ravikanth

A female *Gambusia holbrooki* in a pond in Florida. MARSHBUNNY (CC BY-SA 4.0)

THE GIST

In the 1960s, biological control of mosquitoes became prominent as alternatives to chemical solutions like pesticides, which were found to have dire adverse effects on both human health and the ecosystem. The uptake of these alternatives increased in the 1980s and 1990s

The *Gambusia* species of mosquitofish, which originated in the U.S. but today have become global inhabitants, are notorious for their detrimental ecological impact

Gambusia was first introduced in India in 1928 during British rule. Later, various governmental organisations, such as the ICMR and the National Institute of Malaria Research, took over as part of their efforts to combat malaria

The strategy was well-intentioned but it backfired, leading to severe ecological and environmental problems

In the last few months, various government and non-governmental organisations in Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, and Punjab have released mosquitofish into local water bodies to address a mosquito menace that locals have complained about. In fact, officials in Visakhapatnam are set to release an additional six lakh mosquitofish after having released some 20 lakh a few months ago.

The world's climate and habitats have changed noticeably in the last century, accelerating the spread of mosquito-borne diseases. Today, these diseases prevail in more than 150 countries worldwide, affecting more than 500 million people. In India alone, around 40 million individuals contract mosquito-borne diseases every year, and mosquito-borne illnesses have remained a persistent public health concern for many decades.

What is mosquitofish?

In this milieu, the biological control of mosquitoes assumes importance. In the 1960s, such approaches – including introducing mosquitofish in freshwater ecosystems to feed on mosquito larvae – became prominent as alternatives to chemical solutions like pesticides, which were found to have dire adverse effects on both human health and the ecosystem. The uptake of these alternatives increased in the 1980s and 1990s.

Many of them were considered to be environmentally friendly and sustainable. Among mosquito predators were two species of mosquitofish, *Gambusia affinis* and *Gambusia holbrooki*. In countries with governments that had approved this strategy, the authorities released them into freshwater ecosystems. What they didn't plan for, however, was that the fish began to proliferate here, with their populations eventually spreading far beyond their original habitats. These species of mosquitofish originated in the U.S. but today have become global inhabitants. They are notorious for their detrimental ecological impact, including displacing and preying on native fauna, leading to the extinction of native fish, amphibians, and various freshwater communities. As such, *Gambusia* stands out as some of the most widely dispersed freshwater fish, aided by their robust adaptability and high tolerance for fluctuating environmental conditions.

Is mosquitofish 'used' in India?

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), India's nodal medical research organisation, plays a significant role in mosquito management in the country – particularly in the context of controlling mosquito-borne diseases and conducting research to develop effective strategies.

In 1928, *Gambusia* was first introduced in India during British rule. Later, various governmental organisations, such as the ICMR, the National Institute of Malaria Research (NIMR), local municipal corporations, the Fisheries Department, and the Health Department, alongside other private organisations in India, took over as part of their efforts to combat malaria. The idea of this scheme was that the newly introduced species would prey on or compete with mosquito larvae, reducing the latter's population. The government also entrusted several municipal corporations, district administrations (and their health departments), fisheries departments, tribal development agencies, local aquaculturists, and the general public with introducing these fish across India.

Today, as in the American story, *Gambusia*, has become widespread in India as well, establishing self-sustaining populations in various habitats around the country. The strategy was well-intentioned but it backfired, leading to severe ecological and environmental problems.

What effects has mosquitofish had?

The authors recently investigated the diversity of haplotypes and genotypes within *Gambusia* species in India. (Haplotypes are DNA variants likely to be inherited together; the genotype is an organism's entire genetic material.) Our efforts revealed the widespread distribution of *G. holbrooki* and, to a lesser extent, *G. affinis*, the latter especially so in Northeast India.

Wildlife biologists and conservationists consider mosquitofish to be among the hundred most detrimental invasive alien species. Aside from their resilience, these fish also have voracious feeding habits and have demonstrated aggressive behaviour in habitats to which they are introduced. India's *Gambusia* story thus underscores the importance of careful consideration, research, and monitoring when using biological control methods to manage pest species. Studies conducted in other countries have consistently revealed the harmful consequences of the presence of *Gambusia* in water bodies.

For example, in Australia, introduced mosquitofish have led to the local extinction of the red-finned blue-eye (*Scaturiginichthys vermeilipinnis*), an endemic fish species. They have also been observed preying on the eggs and larvae of native fish and frogs. A study from New Zealand highlighted the threat posed by *Gambusia* to their native aquatic biodiversity. In India, some reports have indicated a decline in *Microhyla* tadpoles following the introduction of *Gambusia*.

For these reasons, the World Health Organisation stopped recommending *Gambusia* as a mosquito control agent in 1982. In 2018, the National Biodiversity Authority of the Government of India also designated *G. affinis* and *G. holbrooki* as invasive alien species.

But both government and non-governmental organisations in India have continued to introduce these species for mosquito-control.

At this time, more stringent enforcement measures are crucial to prevent the species from continuing to be introduced to freshwater ecosystems and to manage the consequences of past introductions. Both also include the task of safeguarding our indigenous aquatic biodiversity and the well-being of native species.

How can mosquitofish be controlled?

Put differently, the problem today is both wolf at the door and termites at the base, and the optimal solution needs practitioners to tackle the problem from multiple angles. The first has to do with the National Centre for Vector Borne Diseases Control (NCVBDC) – of the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare – displaying a recommendation on its website for the use of *Gambusia* and *Poecilia* (guppy) fishes to manage mosquitoes. This recommendation must be removed.

Second, for effective mosquito control, alternatives to *Gambusia* should come from local solutions. Experts have suggested a collaboration between mosquito biologists/entomologists, invasion ecologists, and fish taxonomists, with a focus on river basins. Together, they can compile lists of native fish species in each basin that are capable of controlling mosquito larvae. Then, based on these lists, authorities can release the relevant species into the natural environment, sidestepping the risk of ecological repercussions posed by invasive alien species.

(The authors are with the Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment, Bengaluru.)

BIG SHOT

This photo taken on June 1, 2023, and released by the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency shows the Smart Lander for Investigating Moon (SLIM) spacecraft in the Tanegashima Space Center, Kagoshima prefecture. SLIM 'appeared to have landed' on the lunar surface on January 19, JAXA said, making Japan the fifth country to achieve the feat. AFP

WHAT IS IT?

Mpemba effect: Heat up to cool down

Arkatapa Basu

The Mpemba effect, named after Tanzanian student Erasto Mpemba, who brought attention to this counterintuitive phenomenon in 1969, makes for curious observation. The effect is that hot water can freeze faster than cold water in similar conditions.

While Aristotle, Francis Bacon, and René Descartes had noticed the effect centuries earlier, the Mpemba effect caught scientists' attention only more recently. Researchers have conducted numerous experiments to determine the causes of this confusing phenomenon, but a consensus conclusion remains wanting.

One cause, they have posited, is microbubbles left suspended in water that has been heated by boiling. These cavities promote convection and transfer heat faster as the water cools. Another is evaporation: as warmer water evaporates more, it also takes away some heat (evaporation is inherently endothermic, which is how sweat cools your skin). Both convection and accelerated heat transfer are enhanced in warmer water because such water is less dense.

Yet another factor could be the presence of frost in cold water. Frost is an insulator and could slow the loss of heat. Scientists have also considered whether compounds in water like calcium carbonate could be precipitated by boiling, and then dissolve, thus increasing the water's freezing point.

This way, the Mpemba effect continues to captivate scientists with its complex interplay of physical mechanisms.

Hot water is found to freeze faster than cold water in similar conditions. ISTOCKPHOTO

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Green Line extension to Madavara likely to be operational around July

Construction of the fully elevated Green Line's northern extension from Nagasandra, spanning three km, commenced in 2017, but delays in land acquisition impeded its progress

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

BMRCL officials say that the majority of the work has been finished, with only final touches remaining. FILE PHOTO

Namma Metro's Green Line extension from Nagasandra to Madavara (formerly Bangalore International Exhibition Centre - BIEC) line, on Tumakuru Road might be operational around July.

The construction of the fully elevated Green Line's northern extension from Nagasandra, spanning three kilometres, commenced in 2017. Despite being originally scheduled for completion by mid-2019, delays in land acquisition impeded the progress, causing several missed deadlines set by Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL).

BMRCL officials said that the majority of the work has been finished, with only final touches remaining. "The track laying is the only task remaining, expected to take approximately two months, and the line is anticipated to be fully operational by this July," official added.

"Following the completion of track laying and other minor tasks related to stations, the next steps involve conducting trial runs of trains and inspections by the Commissioner of Metro Rail Safety," the official explained.

BMRCL inaugurated the southern extension of the Green Line from Yelachenahalli to Silk Institute on Kanakapura Road in January 2021.

Upon the operationalisation of the extended stretch to BIEC, the total length of the Green Line will reach 33 km.

As of November 2023, the BMRCL has completed 98.86% of civil works from Manjunathnagar to BIEC.

Land acquisition

Land acquisition issues, especially the delay in acquiring NICE land and the pandemic, were cited as reasons for the metro work delay on this stretch.

The matter has now been resolved, and the project is progressing smoothly, said an official.

The elevated line spanning Nagasandra to Madavara includes three stations: Manjunathnagar, Chikkabidarakallu, and Madavara.

This stretch serves as a connection to the BIEC, a prominent exhibition centre in the city.

Residents of Manjunathanagar, Chikkabidarakallu, Madavara, Tumakuru Road, Anchepalya, and Jindal Nagar have been waiting the opening of this stretch, as they currently have to travel over five kilometres to reach the Nagasandra metro station.

Ajay Kumar, a resident of Madavara, said, "I work in the Peenya Industrial area, and if the metro starts, it will be very convenient for me to travel directly to Peenya. Currently, I have to rely on buses or my own two-wheeler to reach Nagasandra to catch the metro."

Prasanth M., a resident of Chikkabidarakallu, said, "I travel to Jayanagar in the metro from Nagasandra to my office. If the metro can finish the work by July, it will benefit lakhs of commuters on the Green Line."

Senior citizen killed as BBMP garbage lorry knocks down his scooter

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A senior citizen on a scooter was knocked down by a garbage lorry of the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) near Electronics City on Sunday morning.

The deceased was identified as George, 63. According to the police, he was working at a private firm and was a resident of Ejipura.

Severe head injury

According to the police, while he was driving on Hosapalya Main Road, the lorry rammed his scooter. Mr. George lost control of his vehicle and fell down, and suffered a severe head injury.

Though Mr. George was immediately rushed to a hospital, he was declared "brought dead" at the hospital, added the police.

The Electronics City Traffic Police seized the lorry, arrested the driver, and made him undergo a medical test. The report is awaited.

Second incident

This is the second such fatal accident involving a garbage lorry in less than a month.

A 42-year-old welder, Madassar, was killed when a garbage lorry knocked him down in Banashankari on December 29 last year.

The medical test revealed that he was drunk.

Arresting

Sunday show The crowd at the annual Republic Day flower show at Lalbagh on Sunday. The theme for this year is the 12th century social reformer Basaveshwara and other Vachana writers of the period. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Chartered flights to Bhutan from April

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Thomas Cook (India) Limited and SOTC Travel will launch exclusive chartered flights from Bengaluru to Paro (Bhutan) starting April 2024.

According to Thomas Cook, South India represents a key source market for Thomas Cook and SOTC Travel, already contributing over 45% to the companies' business to the Himalayan kingdom of Bhutan, and is growing.

"However, the significant challenge is the lack of direct air connectivity from India's southern region, resulting in both an increase in cost (approximately 15%), and inconvenience (multiple flights, changing airports/terminals, multiple check-ins and baggage drop/collection, etc). This gap formed the genesis of the companies' Blue Ocean strategy - with the launch of special charters to Bhutan from Bengaluru," the travel company said.

It added that Bengaluru represents a strategic gateway, giving Thomas Cook and SOTC increased access via a hub and spoke model, to the powerful and growing source markets - of not just Karnataka, but also the larger southern region.

The Thomas Cook and SOTC Bhutan charters include group tours, individual travel and ad-hoc groups.

The charter departures will take place in April and May 2024 and the duration of the tour is eight days with destinations like Thimpu, Punakha, and Paro.

Two rowdy sheeters arrested

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Sleuths from the Central Crime Branch (CCB) have arrested two rowdy sheeters, wanted in an attempt to murder case, and absconding for the past two years.

The arrested have been identified as Pavan, 23, and Manoj, 25, both residents of the city.

The duo were wanted in a 2022 attempt to murder case in Tilaknagar and were absconding since then.

Acting on a tip-off, the CCB officials arrested the duo. There are six cases pending against Manoj, including two attempt to murder cases and a kidnap case.

Pavan has four cases, including a murder case, pending against him.

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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

The death toll in Palestine due to the Israel-Gaza war

25,000 Since the war started, a total of 25,105 Palestinians have been killed in Gaza, while another 62,681 have been wounded. The Israeli military says that 195 of its soldiers have been killed. AP

The amount FPIs pulled out from Indian stocks this month

13,000 In ₹ crore. Foreign Portfolio Investors are bullish on the debt market and have injected ₹15,647 crore into the debt market in the first three weeks. PTI

Rise in India's power consumption during April to December

8 Power consumption in the country rose to 1,221.15 billion units (BU) during the April-December period of this fiscal, indicating a surge in economic activities. Consumption was affected in March, April, May, and June this fiscal due to widespread rainfall. PTI

The number of people protesting in Germany against the AfD party

2.5 in lakh. The mobilisation against the party was sparked by a January 10 report by *Correctiv*, which revealed that AfD members had discussed the expulsion of immigrants and "non-assimilated citizens" at a meeting with extremists. AFP

Deaths due to shelling in Russian-occupied Ukraine

25 The strike hit a crowded market in the Russian-held city of Donetsk in eastern Ukraine. Both Moscow and Kyiv have accused each other of a sharp escalation in attacks on civilian areas in the past two months. AFP

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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The growth of India-Bangladesh ties

What impact will Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina's electoral victory have on the country's bilateral relationship with India? What is the status of economic cooperation between the two South Asian countries? How is China making its presence felt?

EXPLAINER

Sumeda

The story so far:
Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina returned to power in Bangladesh for a historic fourth straight term earlier this month after her party, the Awami League, secured two-thirds of the seats in the January 7 national elections. Prime Minister Narendra Modi was among the first world leaders to congratulate Ms. Hasina, illustrating the close bilateral relationship between the two countries.

How have ties flourished?
The foundation of India's relationship with Bangladesh was laid in the 1971 Bangladesh Liberation War. India provided critical military and material support to assist Bangladesh in its fight for independence from Pakistan. Despite this, relations soured within a few years as military regimes took control. There was a rise in anti-India sentiment in the mid-1970s over issues ranging from boundary disputes and insurgency to the sharing of water. The instability continued for a few decades until Sheikh Hasina came to power in 1996 and scripted a new chapter in bilateral ties with a treaty on the sharing of Ganga waters. Since then, India and Bangladesh have built cooperation in trade, energy, infrastructure, connectivity and defence.

What about economic cooperation?
Bilateral trade between India and Bangladesh has grown steadily over the last decade. Bangladesh has emerged as India's largest trade partner in South Asia, with bilateral trade reaching $18 billion in 2021-2022 from $10.8 billion in 2020-21, though there was a dip in 2022-23 due to the pandemic and the Russia-Ukraine war. India is also the second biggest trade partner of Bangladesh, with exports amounting to $2 billion in Indian markets.

In 2022, both nations concluded a joint feasibility study on a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA). The agreement, typically designed to reduce or eliminate customs duties on traded goods and simplify trade norms, is anticipated to open up broader social and economic opportunities. The CEPA gains additional significance as Bangladesh is set to lose its Least Developed Country (LDC) status after 2026, thereby losing its duty-free and quota-free market access in India. Dhaka will be eager to finalise a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with New Delhi, and also pursue the China-backed Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP). This dual approach raises concerns for India.

Firm ties: PM Narendra Modi with PM Sheikh Hasina at the G-20 Summit, on September 9, 2023. PTI

What about infrastructure?
As a "major development partner" of Bangladesh, India is funding several infrastructure and connectivity projects. Since 2010, India has extended Lines of Credits worth over $7 billion. PM Modi and Sheikh Hasina made history last year when they inaugurated the Akhaura-Agartala rail link that connects Bangladesh and the northeast through Tripura. The link has given India access to Chattogram and Mongla ports in Bangladesh for the movement of cargo. It is likely to boost small-scale industries and develop Assam and Tripura.

In the energy sector, Bangladesh imports nearly 2,000 megawatts of electricity from India. The BIMSTEC Master Plan for Transport Connectivity focuses on connecting major transport projects in India, Bangladesh, Myanmar and Thailand, thereby establishing a shipping network. India's attention will primarily be directed towards the Matarbari Port, located about 100 km from Tripura, which Bangladesh is building. The port will establish a crucial industrial corridor linking Dhaka and the northeast part of India.

What are the points of tension?
The looming Teesta dispute will take centre-stage in the agenda of the Hasina-led government. The issue revolves around the sharing of Teesta's waters, with Bangladesh seeking an equitable distribution. Another contentious matter is the Rohingya issue. The Hasina government aims for the peaceful repatriation of Rohingyas to Myanmar, but its talks with the military junta have been unsuccessful so far. Bangladesh seeks India's cooperation to influence Myanmar, but the Modi government, which has ties with the junta, asserts that it will deport Rohingyas from its mainland. Cross-border terrorism and infiltration are additional threats to internal security. The rise of majoritarian forces adds another layer to the complex landscape. While violence against Muslims has increased in India in the past few years, PM Hasina has stood at the forefront to condemn the attacks and express displeasure over comments by Indian leaders on "illegal" immigrants.

What about global ties?
The U.S. has been vocal in its criticism of the Awami League government, exerting pressure on Sheikh Hasina over "democratic backsliding". In 2021, the Biden administration slapped sanctions on a Bangladeshi anti-crime and anti-terrorism task force, citing human rights violations, and escalated tensions by announcing a policy to restrict visas for Bangladeshis it believed to be responsible for undermining the election process in the country. Adding to India's concerns is the deepening relationship between Bangladesh and China, marked by the substantial Chinese investments in infrastructure in recent years. China built 12 highways, 21 bridges and 27 power and energy projects in Bangladesh, as per the Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh. However, Ms. Hasina has maintained that her government is "very much careful" about its partnership with China.

THE GIST

- Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina returned to power in Bangladesh for a historic fourth straight term earlier this month after her party, the Awami League, secured two-thirds of the seats in the January 7 national elections.
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- Adding to India's concerns is the deepening relationship between Bangladesh and China, marked by substantial Chinese investments in infrastructure in recent years.

What is the conflict between HUL and its distributors?

Why are distributors planning a phased boycott of Hindustan Unilever products?

Saptaparno Ghosh

The story so far:
On January 11, the Maharashtra State Consumer Products Distributors Federation (MSCPDF) and the All-India Consumer Products Distributors Federation (AICPDF) called for a phased boycott of products manufactured by Hindustan Unilever Ltd (HUL). This was due to an upward revision in variable margins along with a downward revision in fixed margins to distributors. Opposing the move, the AICPDF referred to it as a "double standard approach, seemingly driven by a draconian agenda to boost company profitability."

What is the issue?
Distributors are usually offered two kinds of margins: variable and fixed. While the former depends on performance parameters, fixed margins are usually about 4-6%. A revision of this fixed margin is the current point of contention. The maker of brands such as Lux, Kissan jam and Surf Excel has reduced the fixed margin by 60 basis points and increased the variable margins by up to 100-130 basis points for its distributors. The AICPDF has argued that the revision "suggests a shift in management strategy that may jeopardise the entire distribution network," adding that distributors may be "pressured and blackmailed" into compromising their "rightful margins."

In an earlier statement, the umbrella body of distributors alleged that HUL had a "significant gap." About 30% of areas lacked distributors and efforts to find distributors had proven futile, they stated. Distributors are particularly important in the supply chain for they ensure that the products are available on the market at all times, especially at smaller stores with limited stocking capacity. It argued that the revision intensified concerns, potentially forcing existing distributors out of business. The collective also contended that the "demanding parameters" may push distributors towards unethical activities like undercutting (charging much less than competitors or retail prices to eliminate competition) and infiltration.

They have demanded to fix the distributors' basic margin at a minimum of 5%. They have also said that the proposed incentive parameters should not interfere with distributors' margins.

What does the boycott look like?
Starting from January 11, the umbrella bodies have sought that distributors boycott the FMCG company's Taj Mahal tea brand as part of a non-cooperation movement. If a truce is not attained, next in line would be the boycott of the Kissan brand, effective from January 25, and then RIN, effective from February 10. And finally, from March 1, the collective plans to launch "a complete non-cooperation movement" in all States, alongside a *dharna* with 1,000 distributors in front of the HUL head office in Mumbai.

How has HUL responded?
HUL has said that the latest model improves the overall efficiency of service and offers distributors a higher earning potential. A spokesperson for HUL elaborated that the company is "always looking at commercial models to enhance the quality of service to general trade stores while giving our distributors an opportunity to earn healthy returns – hence, a win-win." The spokesperson also added that the "progressive and distributor-inclusive model" is designed to better serve the needs of Kirana and other neighbourhood stories – the MSMEs, which "are the bedrock of the Indian FMCG industry in a fast-changing environment." The company spokesperson also touched upon concerns emanating from the boycott call. "Our distributors have overwhelmingly conveyed to us that they would continue to meet the needs of our shoppers and consumers in an uninterrupted manner," the statement read.

This is not the first instance the two entities have found themselves at loggerheads. An earlier stand-off in 2022 (later resolved) was due to alleged price disparity between that accorded to traditional distributors and the larger organised B2B (business to business) distributors.

With inputs from Aroosa Ahmed

THE GIST

- On January 11, the Maharashtra Consumer Products Distributors Federation (MCPDF) and the All-India Consumer Products Distributors Federation (AICPDF) called for a phased boycott of products manufactured by Hindustan Unilever Ltd (HUL).
- HUL has reduced the fixed margin by 60 basis points and increased the variable margins by up to 100-130 basis points for its distributors.
- The AICPDF has argued that the revision "suggests a shift in management strategy that may jeopardise the entire distribution network," adding that distributors may be "pressured and blackmailed" into compromising their "rightful margins."

'Remove cross subsidy burden levied on industrial and commercial consumers'

Cross subsidy provided by industrial and commercial consumers came up to ₹5,680 crore in FY 2023-24. This is why the industrial tariff is high in the State. As the tariff is high, they are going off grid to open access which is a loss to the electricity supply companies, says KERC

Jahnavi T.R.
BENGALURU

Ahead of the State Budget for the financial year 2024 - 2025, the Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission (KERC) has written to the State government to consider an increased budgetary allocation for the free supply of power to irrigation pumpsets (of 10 HP and below).

The commission has placed this request to reduce the burden of cross subsidies on industrial and commercial consumers in the State by removing it, which would essentially result in reduced electricity tariff for these consumers.

A letter, written to the Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Energy Department, explains that traditionally, tariff is fixed based on the paying capacity of consumers and hence, the tariff for IP sets as well as other domestic consumers is usually lower than that for industrial, commercial, and other high-consumption domestic consumers.

Total subsidy requirement of the State calculated by KERC (at average cost of supply)

Particulars	in ₹ crore
Approved subsidy to Escoms in FY 2023- 24 (with cross subsidy)	13,966
Additional subsidy for failure of monsoon (with cross subsidy)	5,206
Total cost of power to IP sets in FY 2023 - 24 (without cross subsidy)	19,646
Cost of power to IP sets in FY 2024 – 25 (without cross subsidy) *	21,200
Cost of power to IP sets in FY 2024 – 25 if monsoon fails (without cross subsidy) *	29,500

* Considering an 8% increase in average cost of supply

The Commission Determined Tariff (CDT), when it came to IP sets, so far was fixed considering the cross subsidies provided by industrial and commercial consumers.

"Fixation of tariff with cross subsidies essentially means the industrial and commercial consumers are subsidising the government to partially meet the cost of electricity being supplied to IP sets for free and for the free supply to domestic consumers up to 200 units," the letter noted.

The KERC has also said that in addition to IP sets, the high-paying consumers were also cross subsidising for the Gruha Jyothi scheme.

Hence, the commission is also planning to remove the cross subsidy being provided for the free 200 units to the government by high-consumption domestic consumers. It also plans on increasing the tariff payable towards IP sets and free power for domestic consumers which would need increased subsidy allocation from government.

Cost increase

The KERC also noted that the electricity costs in the State have gone up owing to increased fuel and other operating costs.

For instance, the average cost of the supply of one unit of sale of Bescom was just ₹5.04 in FY 2013 - 2114, whereas in FY 2023 - 2024, it rose by 91% to ₹9.62 per unit.

The cost of power per unit sales also increased by 77%, from ₹4.36 per unit to ₹7.73 per unit, in 10 years.

Along with the hike in tariffs, the burden to also pay the cross subsidies has affected the growth of trade and industries in the State, the commission observed.

"The cross subsidy provided by industrial and commercial consumers came up to ₹5,680 crore in FY 2023-2024. This is why the industrial tariff is high in the State. As the tariff is high, they are going off grid to open access which is a loss to the electricity supply companies (escoms). That is why we want to remove it from FY 2024 - 2025. States like Andhra Pradesh do not have this cross subsidy system," P. Ravikumar, Chairman, KERC, told *The Hindu*.

The commission says in the letter that without cross subsidy from industrial and commercial consumers, the total cost of power supplied to IP sets came up to ₹19,646 crore.

If an 8% increase in the cost of power supplied to IP sets is considered for the FY 2024 - 2025, then it is likely to cost the State government around ₹21,200 crore.

Like this year, if the monsoon also fails in the upcoming FY, then the IP power supply cost for the government would be ₹29,500 crore and hence, the KERC has requested the government to increase the budgetary allocation.

ACS, Energy Department, Gaurav Gupta, when asked about the letter, said, "We will consider and discuss its recommendations and then the government will take whatever action is necessary."

E-paper edition

The Hindu offers more coverage of Bengaluru in the e-paper edition. (epaper.thehindu.com)

In the issue dated January 22, we have a story on George Michelle, founder-trustee of the Deccan Heritage Foundation, who spoke at a lecture in Bengaluru about the built legacy of the Wadiyars and Tipu Sultan. He also launched a guidebook on the theme.

Text & Context and Science

Weekday features on *The Hindu* epaper (epaper.thehindu.com) carries explainers, special articles and quizzes. In the latest issue (January 22, Monday), the following articles are available:

- The growth of India-Bangladesh relations **bit.ly/indiabanglaties**
- Mosquitofish, used to fight mosquitoes, has become invasive in India **bit.ly/mosquitofishpuzzle**

You can use your smartphone's inbuilt features to access these articles. If it's an Android phone, use Google Lens to read and tap the url to access an article. If it's an iPhone, use Live Text on camera to do the same.

READER'S MAIL

Preserve lung space

Sir, – The Lalbagh Botanical Gardens hosts a flower exhibition twice a year and the current ongoing one will conclude on January 28. The show's size and scale have increased with time, attracting lakhs of visitors. Though driving vehicles inside the gardens is prohibited, it is observed that all types of vehicles carrying exhibition hardware and display materials freely move around from the time the preparations begin until the time of its winding up, roughly three weeks. The resulting dust and smoke affect thousands of daily walkers. Why do the exhibition authorities not require that all men and materials coming from outside by motor vehicles be shifted to non-motorised vehicles (to be hired for the purpose) outside the gardens' gates and then carried to their spot? The additional cost is worth incurring to preserve the sanctity of the city's invaluable and expansive lung space.

Kamal Laddha,
Bengaluru

Install escalator at Kengeri station

Sir, – For a year, raw materials to erect an escalator were being dumped in wooden boxes at the Kengeri railway stockyard as a 'showpiece'. Passengers, irrespective of age, are finding it difficult to climb the steps to reach Platform Nos. 2 and 3, as Platform No. 1 is permanently unusable, with a train being parked there.

I request the PRO, Northern Eastern Railway, Bengaluru, to intervene in the matter urgently and liaise with the concerned to erect the escalator, besides shifting the parked train to Platform No. 4 or elsewhere to enable the use of Platform No. 1 effectively.

N. Nanjundaswamy,
Bengaluru

Readers can email to letters.bangalore @thehindu.co.in

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring to the NOTICE of General Public, that my client **MR.RAJA BIPIN CHANDRA MADIAH BASAVARAJ**, S/o Sri.Basavaraj.M, AADHAR NO.5041 2282 7300, Residing at No.13, 2nd Floor, 1st Main, Gattigere Main Road, Sudarshan Layout, Rajarajeshwarinagar, Bangalore – 560 098, intends to purchase the schedule property from **SMT.K.S. KANTHALAKSHMI**, W/o Sri.K.R.Shyam Sunder, AADHAR NO.2846 4873 4118, Residing at No.214, Raghavendra Temple Road, BEML Layout, 3rd Stage, Rajarajeshwarinagar, Bangalore – 560 098.

This notice is hereby given for the information of General public that, any persons/Banks/Financial institutes having any right, title, share, claim or interest against/in the schedule property may contact me with their documentary/legitimate proof in support of their claim within 10 (Ten) days from the date of this notice. If no claim is so lodged with me within 10 (Ten) days from the date of publication, after which my clients shall proceed with the Absolute Sale Deed on the basis that there are no claims whatsoever, as if the same is free from all kinds of claims/encumbrances and no claim shall be entertained later.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the Property bearing **Site No. 214,** the presently B.B.M.P.Katha No. 5883/5835/214, measuring : East to West 80'-0" feet and North to South 40'-6" feet, totally measuring 360.00 Sq.yards (i.e., 3240 Sq.feet), along with constructed a multistoried building of **"KADUR COMPLEX"** with 1600 Sq.feet in Ground floor, 3200 Sq.feet in First floor, 3200 Sq.feet in Second floor and 2090 Sq.feet in 3rd Floor, Situated at **B.E.M.L.3rd Stage, Rajarajeshwarinagar, Halagevaderahalli Village, Kengeri Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore**, together with all rights, appurtenances whatsoever, whether underneath or above the surface and bounded on the :

East by : Site No.215, West by : Road, North by : Site No.213, South by : Road.

Mrs.M.Manjula, Advocate
No.C-1, 1st Floor, Maruthi Pearl Plaza, D.V.G.Road, Basavanagudi, Bengaluru-560004. Mob : 9945027091.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified that, my clients have agreed to purchase the Schedule property from its owners: **(i)Sri.MADHAV A JOSHI** S/o late A.M.Joshi, **(ii)Smt.ANAGHA JOSHI A** W/o Sri.T.R.Guruprasad, **(iii)Smt.VIJAYA P JOSHI** W/o late Pritham A Joshi and **(iv)Sri.GOVIND P JOSHI** S/o late Pritham A Joshi.

Apart from the said owners, if any other person/s have any manner of claim or interest or demand over the Schedule property or any part thereof by way of sale, lease, mortgage, gift, lien, charge, trust, maintenance, easement, pre-emption or otherwise howsoever, they are hereby requested to file their objection/s (along with the photocopies of the documents on which they are relying), with the undersigned within **14 days** from the date of publication of this notice. Objection/s received thereafter will not be binding on my clients.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the residential property bearing Municipal No.7, PID No.50-9-7, measuring East to West 29ft 3 inches and North to South 29ft 6 inches, together with a building thereon, situated at Krishna Rao Scindiya Road, V.V.Puram, Bangalore and bounded on:

East By : Conservancy
West By : Common passage
North By : House/property bearing No.6
South By : House/property bearing No.8

Sd/- **S.F. GOUTAM CHAND**
Advocate
GOUTAM ASSOCIATES
No.60, 2nd Floor, Kanakapura Road, Basavanagudi, Bangalore-560 004.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby Notified that my client **Smt. BINDU.J, W/o Gopala B.V.** Residing at No.30, 36th Cross, Jayanagara 9th Block, Bangalore-560069, intending to purchase the **SCHEDULE PROPERTY** from her vendor **Smt. Sowmya C.S. w/o Sri BR. Ramesh** residing at No.679, 2nd Cross Road, M.G.Road, Chikkaballapura- 562101.

Any person/s having objection/s, / Claim, Interest over the Schedule Property may raise their objection within **15 days** with relevant Documents from the date of this publication, failing which my client shall proceed to complete the Sale Deed or otherwise it will be treated as there is no claimant.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece & parcel of **Site** bearing **No. 531, PID No. 57-100-531,** 11th 'A' Cross Road, **J.P. Nagar 2nd Phase,** Sarakki, Bangalore, New BBMP Ward No.177, Old BBMP Ward No. 57, measuring **East to West: 9.14 Meters & North to South: 12.80 Meters, in all measuring 116.992 Square Meters, & bounded on:**

East: Property bearing No. 532
West: Property bearing No. 530
North: Road
South: Property bearing No. 538

LATHA PRASAD
ADVOCATE & LEGAL CONSULTANT
No.2/1, Ground Floor, Model House 2nd Street, Basavangudi, Bangalore **Mob: 99800-11669**
Client: Smt.. BINDU.J: Mob: 99014-56690

IN THE COURT OF THE PRINCIPAL DISTRICT CONSUMER DISPUTES REDRESSAL COMMISSION AT BANGALORE
C.C.NO.320/2023

BETWEEN :
Sri.Varun Nair & Another ....Complainants
AND :
M/s.Venkat Estates Pvt.Ltd., And others ....Opposite Parties

To,
Smt.D.Praveena Devi,
D/o.D.Rama Krishna Reddy,
Residing at No.40/1, 5th Cross, Wilson Garden, Bangalore – 560027. **....Opposite Party No.3**
Sri.M.Govind Reddy,
S/o.P.Munni Krishna Reddy,
Residing at No.40, Domlur, Bangalore – 560071. **....Opposite Party No.4**

NOTICE

Take notice that the above named Complainants have filed a complaint against you and others for the relief of refund of amounts and other reliefs detailed in Petition. The case is posted on 25/01/2024 for your appearance. You are hereby directed to appear before this Hon'ble Commission **on 25/01/2024 at 10.30 A.M.** in person or through an Advocate without fail to answer the claim with version and supporting documents. If you fail to appear, the case will be heard and decided ex-parte. Given under hand and the seal of the court, this **16th day of January, 2024.**

By Order of the Commission,
Assistant Registrar cum Assistant Administrative Officer, Bangalore Urban.
Yaseen Babu,
Abdul Ameen.M,
ADVOCATES,
No.1C, 'Wilocrisa Apartment', 14, Rest House Crescent Road, Next to Book My Show Office, Bangalore-560-001.
Bangalore Dated: 16/1/2024

Government of Karnataka
RURAL DRINKING WATER SUPPLY & SANITAION DEPARTEMENT, DIVISION, CHITRADURGA .
Phone No.: 08194-234488 e-mail: eerdwsd.chd@gmail.com

Tender Notification No: EE/RDWS&SD/CTA/JJM /Tender/ 2023-24/2035 Dt: 19.01.2024.

Short Term Tender Notification

(One & Two Cover System) Through e-procurement

Tender has been invited for the following work in Two cover system throughe-procurement. Eligible tenders may obtain the details and tender documents and submitted the filled tender online through website view.http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. Holalkere Taluk 03 Works Rs. 124.20 Lakhs, Hiriyur Taluk 01 Works Rs. 12.12 Lakhs AND Hosadurga Taluk 01 Works Rs. 29.91 Lakhs Last Date for Receipt of Bids Dt: 29.01.2024, Date of Technical Bid Opening 30.01.2024 and Date of Financial Bid Opening 31.01.2024. For Further details Office of Executive Engineer and also through e-port web site http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.

DIPR/CTA/KSMCA/ 494/2023-24

Sd/- Executive Engineer, R.D.W.S. & S. Division, Chitradurga

ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ.

ನಂ:ದಾಮಪಾ:ಕಾಅ3:ಇ.ಟೆಂಡರ್:18:2023–24 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 19.01.2024

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

(ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ)

2023–24ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ನಿಧಿ–02 ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಯ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಮರುಟೆಂಡರ್, 2017–18ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಎಸ್.ಎಫ್.ಸಿ ಮುಕ್ತನಿಧಿಯ–ಶೇಕಡ 5.00ರ ಯೋಜನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಉಳಿಕೆಯಾಗಿರುವ ಅನುದಾನದಲ್ಲಿ–01 ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಯ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಮರುಟೆಂಡರ್, 2017–18ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ನಿಧಿ (ಶೇ 5ರ ಕ್ರಿಯಾ ಯೋಜನೆ)–01 ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಯ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಮರುಟೆಂಡರ್, 2022–23ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ 15ನೇ ಹಣಕಾಸು ಆಯೋಗದ ಜನರಲ್ ಬೇಸಿಕ್ ಗ್ರಾಂಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ–01 ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್, 2021–22 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ 15ನೇ ಹಣಕಾಸು ಆಯೋಗದ Million Plus City ಅನುದಾನದಲ್ಲಿ–02 ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು (01 ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಪೂರ್ಣಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಮತ್ತು 01 ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಯ ಕಾಮಗಾರುಗೆ ಮರುಟೆಂಡರ್), 2016–17 ಸಾಲಿಗಿಂತ ಹಿಂದಿನ ಎಸ್.ಎಫ್.ಸಿ ಮುಕ್ತ ನಿಧಿಯ ಶೇಕಡ 5ರ ಯೋಜನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ 2016–17, 2017–18, 2018–19, 2019–20, 2021–22, 2022–23 ಸಾಲಿನ ಎಸ್.ಎಫ್.ಸಿ ಮುಕ್ತ ನಿಧಿಯ ಶೇಕಡ 5ರ ಯೋಜನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ (ವೈಯಕ್ತಿಕ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮ) ಮತ್ತು 2017–18 ಸಾಲಿನ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ನಿಧಿಯ ಶೇಕಡ 5ರ ಯೋಜನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ (ವೈಯಕ್ತಿಕ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮ) –01 ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಯ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಮರುಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಮೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಸಿಂಗಲ್/ಡಬಲ್ ಕವರ್ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯ ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು(ವಿದ್ಯುತ್/ ನೀರುಸರಬರಾಜು) ರವರು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಿದ್ದು, ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು/ ಪಜನ್ಸಿದಾರರು/ ಸರಬರಾಜುದಾರರು ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಮೋರ್ಟಲ್ ವೆಬ್ ಸೈಟ್ kppp.karnataka.gov.in ನಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಾಗಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದು. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಕಛೇರಿ ಸಮಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ಶಾಖೆಗೆ ಭೇಟಿ ನೀಡಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯ ಸಹಾಯಕ ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 08192 234444 ರಿಂದ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.

ಸೂಚನೆ : 1) ಈ ಮೇಲ್ಕಂಡ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಮುಂದೆ ನಮೂದಿಸಿದ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ ಹಾಗೂ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ ದಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವುದೇ ಬದಲಾವಣೆ ಇದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನಮೂದಿಸಿದ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತವು ಅಂತಿಮವಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. 2) ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ದಿನಾಂಕಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವುದೇ ಬದಲಾವಣೆ ಅದಲ್ಲಿ ಆ ದಿನಾಂಕಗಳನ್ನು ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಗಮನಿಸುವುದು ಹಾಗೂ ಯಾವುದೇ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಗಳನ್ನು ಹೊರಡಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ.

ಪೂರ್ಣಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ವೇಳೆ : 03.02.2024 ಸಮಯ : 17.00 ಪೂರ್ಣಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಅಂತಿಮ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ವೇಳೆ : 05.02.2024 ಸಮಯ : 17.00 ಪೂರ್ಣಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ವೇಳೆ : 06.02.2024.ಸಮಯ : 17.00 ನಂತರ

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ವೇಳೆ : 25.01.2024, ಸಮಯ: 17.00 ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಅಂತಿಮ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ವೇಳೆ : 29.01.2024 ಸಮಯ 17.00 ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ವೇಳೆ : 30.01.2024 .ಸಮಯ : 17.00 ನಂತರ

ವಾಸಾಇ/ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ/512/ ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/2023–24

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು(ವಿ) ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, T Jaya, D/o Thimmaiah Gowda, R/o 178, Arehalli Village, Benakanekere Post, Turuvekere Taluk, Tumkur District, Karnataka – 572227, have changed my name to S Jaya post marriage vide affidavit number 29AC 283612 dated 04 Dec 2023 at Coimbatore.

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE 1st ADDL DISTRICT JUDGE ELURU-AP
M.V.O.P No. 296/2023

Between
GOPISETTI BHAVANI & Others Petitioner
&
Samuel Michel Raj & Others Respondents

In the above said matter you are the 2nd respondent **M/s.ARL EXPRESS LOGISTICS GOODS** carrier rep.by authorized signartory Private Limited No.34/1 Hosur main Road,singasandra **BANGALORE,**Karnataka **560068** owner of Container Lorry No. **KA51AH-8066** Appear before Honble Court **9.2.2024** at above **10.30 A.M.** In person or through advocate to raise any objection their person otherwise court will be passed appropriate order.

K.V.V.Suryanarayana Reddy
Advocate Eluru
Cell : 9959312346
Place: **Eluru ,** Date : **18.1.2024**

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF LXXII ADDL. CITY CIVIL AND SESSIONS JUDGE, MAYOHALL AT BANGALORE (CCH 73)
O.S. NO. 25157/2023
Hg. 15.02.2024

BETWEEN :
M/s. ICICI BANK LIMITED, Mittal Tower, M G Road, Bangalore- 560001
Rep. by its officer of Power of Attorney Holder Ms. Mansi Singh
D/o. Anil Kumar Singh
Aged 24 years **...PLAINTIFF**
AND :
Mrs. Rathnamma
D/o. Ashwathappa
Aged Majore,
5th Ward Bageppalli, Bagepalli, Chikkaballapur, Near Poojappa Houde, Chikkaballaour- 561 207
...DEFENDANT

Summons to Defendant

Whereas, the above named Plaintiff has filed a Civil Suit for Recovery of a sum of **Rs. 4,95,672.27 /- (Rupees Four Lakhs Ninety Five Thousand Six Hundred Seventy Two and Paise Twenty Seven Only)** apart from future interest of 10% p.a., in **O.S. NO. 25157/2023** and same is pending adjudication in **CCH 73** Before the LXXII Addl. City Civil Court, Mayo Hall, Bengaluru.

You are hereby summoned to appear before the Hon'ble Court on the **15th** day of **Febuary, 2024** at **11:00 A.M.** to answer to the same, if failed the suit will be decided in your absence, Ex-parte.

Given under my hand and Seal of the Court this the **10th** day of **January, 2024.**

By the order of court
Deputy Registrar,
City Civil Mayo hall, Bengaluru- 560 001

FX & CO., ADVOCATES,
New No.9, Old No.11/1
Gover Road, Cox Town,
Bengaluru- 560 005.

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE LV ADDITIONAL CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE AT BENGALURU (CCH-56)
O.S No. 5848/2023
Hg. 19.02.2024

BETWEEN :
M/s. ICICI Bank Limited, having its registered office at, Landmark, Race-Course Circle, Vadodara-390 007, and branch office at : 4/10, Mythree Tower, Bommanahalli, Hosur Main Road, Bengaluru-560 068 through its authorised representative Mr. Harish E
...Plaintiff
AND
Mr. Avinash Bhandari
...Defendant

SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION UNDER ORDER VRULE 20 OF CPC

Defendant :
Mr. Avinash Bhandari,
S/o. Hari Bhandari,
Aged About 35 Years, R/at. No. 5/10, Flat No. B405, Namma Mane Apartment, CV Raman Road, Kodipalya, Kengeri, Near Hanuman Temple, Bangalore- 560 060

Whereas the plaintiff above named has instituted the above suit for recovery of money for sum of **Rs. 7,82,639.73/-** along with interest at the rate of **24% P.A.** against you, and you are summoned to appear before the LV Addl. City Civil & Sessions Judge at Bengaluru **(C.C.H.-56)**, in person or by a pleader, on the day of **19/02/2024** at **11:00 A.M.** to answer the claim, failing to which the suit would be disposed of Ex-Parte.

Given under my hand and seal of the court on this the 16th day of January, 2024.

By order of the court
Assistant Registrar,
Hon'ble City Civil Court, Bengaluru

Advocate for Plaintiff
B.S. Jeevan Kumar
Vidhii Partners,
Advocates,
No. 701, Queens Corner 'A', 3, Queens Road, Bengaluru- 01.

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE LVIII ADDITIONAL CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE AT BENGALURU (CCH-59)
O. S. No. 6533/2022
Hg. 15.03.2024

Between :
M/s. ICICI Bank Limited, having its registered office at : Landmark, Race-Course Circle, Vadodara- 390 007, having its head office at and Zonal office at : 4/10, Mythree Tower, Bommanahalli, Hosur Main Road, Bengaluru-560 068 and also having branch at M.G. Road, Bengaluru, through its Authorised representative Mr. Rohith Ali M. **...Plaintiff**
And :
Mr. Pramod Kumar N.
...Defendant

SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION UNDER ORDER V RULE 20 OF CPC

Defendant :
Mr. Pramod Kumar N.
S/o. Narayana Swamy,
Aged About 34 Years,
Residing No. 147, 2nd Floor, 10th A Cross Virai Nagar, Bommanahalli Near Pratham School, Bangalore- 560 068.

Whereas the plaintiff above named has instituted the above suit for recovery of money for sum of **Rs.10,15,773.45/-** along with interest at the rate of 24% P.A. against you, and you are summoned to appear before the LVIII Addl. City Civil & Sessions Judge at Bengaluru (C.C.H.-59), in person or by a pleader, on the day of 15/03/2024 at 11:00 AM to answer the claim, failing to which the suit would be disposed of Ex-Parte.

Given under my hand and seal of the court on this the **16th** day of **January, 2024** at Bangalore.

By order of the Court
Assistant Registrar,
Hon'ble City Civil Court, Bengaluru

Advocate for Plaintiff
B.S. Jeevan Kumar
Vidhii Partners,
Advocates,
No. 701, Queens Corner 'A', 3, Queens Road, Bengaluru- 01.

CACHE

The Rabbit r1. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

From voice to action: can the Rabbit r1 disrupt the smartphone market?

Rabbit Inc has created a platform, underpinned by an AI model, that can mimic what humans do with their smartphones and then repeat it when asked to execute. The device, in a way, extends the capabilities of the current generation of voice assistants

John Xavier

This year's Consumer Electronics Show (CES) at Las Vegas was littered with updates from both start-ups and large tech firms that are building products harnessing, or in some cases, advancing the power of natural language processing (NLP), a burgeoning sub-field under artificial intelligence (AI). With so many exhibits, it is difficult to point out any one piece of tech as exceptional this year. Still, an orange-coloured device unveiled at the ballroom at Wynn, and not at the official CES stage, grabbed the spotlight.

The palm-sized handheld, called Rabbit r1, received a fair amount of chatter at CES 2024 as it could do – per the company's claim– several things that a smartphone can't. Even Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella called it a 'most impressive' device, and compared it to the first iPhone unveiled by Steve Jobs.

So, what exactly does this device do? If you want to book an Uber ride, the r1 can do it for you. If you want to plan a vacation, including booking air tickets and making room reservations, the r1 can do that for you. If you want some cooking ideas, the r1's camera can scan the motley ingredients in your refrigerator and suggest a recipe based on your calorie requirement. All you have to do is just 'tell it' what to do.

Exploiting chatbots' limitation

Granted, any of the latest generation smartphones with its state-of-the-art voice assistant can do several tasks like searching the web, playing your favourite song, or making a call from a user's phonebook. But, executing tasks, like booking a cab, reserving hotel room, and putting together a recipe using computer vision, just by talking into a walkie-talkie style device, is a stretch even for smartphone-based voice assistants.

Even the current crop of chatbots, like ChatGPT, Bard and Claude, can only text out responses through apps as they are incapable of executing actionable tasks. For instance, the ChatGPT app can text you a vacation plan. It can even tweak the itinerary if you ask it to make it easy or packed. But, it cannot open a ticket booking app or a room reservation portal to make a reservation for you. Rabbit Inc., the maker of r1, says that the current batch of chatbots have limited functionality because they are built on text-based AI models – more commonly known as large language models (LLMs). LLMs' accuracy depends a lot on annotated data to train neural networks for every new task.

Extending LLM's capability

The Santa Monica-based start-up has built its r1 device using a different AI model that is biased for action. The Rabbit OS, in a way, extends the capabilities of the current generation of voice assistants. The AI model, which the company calls a large action model (LAM), takes advantage of advances in neuro-symbolic programming, a method that combines the data driven capabilities of the neural networks with symbolic reasoning techniques. This allows the device to directly learn from the user's interaction with the applications and execute tasks, essentially bypassing the need to translate text-based user requests into APIs.

Apart from bypassing the API route, LAM-based OS caters to a more nuanced human to machine interaction. While ChatGPT can be creative in responding to prompts, a LAM-based OS learns routine and minimalistic tasks with a sole purpose of repeating it.

So, Rabbit Inc., in essence, has created a platform, underpinned by an AI model, that can mimic what humans do with their smartphones and then repeat it when asked to execute. The r1 is the company's first generation device, which according to its founder Jesse Lyu, is a stand-alone gadget that is primarily driven by natural language "to get things done." The company has also cleverly priced the device at $199, significantly lesser than the price of most flagship smartphones. This makes it difficult to decipher whether customers will buy this device for the value it offers or just because it is cheap.

But is the price differentiation alone enough to trade in your existing smartphone for the new Rabbit r1?

A smartphone replacement?

Booking a ride, planning a vacation, or playing music are only a subset of things we do with a smartphone. Over the last one and a half decade, the smartphone has become a pocket computer.

The app ecosystem built for this hardware has made the device so sticky that an average user picks up their smartphone at least 58 times a day, and spends, on average, at least three hours with it. And during that time, they use this mini-computer for whole host of things, not to mention streaming videos, playing games, reading books, and interacting with friends and family via group chat applications. Secondly, not everyone wants to speak into a device all the time to get something done. Most people are just fine typing in text prompts and getting responses in the same format. It gives them a layer of privacy that the r1 does not provide – that's because the latter can only execute voice commands.

So, the smartphone, and its app ecosystem, is here to stay to cater to an entire gamut of user needs and wants for the foreseeable future.

Into the Rabbit hole

Mr. Lyu believes the r1 will disrupt the smartphone market, but technically, his company's palm-sized device is a strong contender in the voice assistant and smart speaker market, which is another space that is growing quite steadily.

According to a 2022 joint report by NPR and Edison Research, in the U.S. alone, 62% of users over the age of 18 use the voice assistant on any smart device. And the number of tasks they do with it is also increasing. In 2022, smart speaker users requested an average of 12.4 tasks on their device each week, up from 7.5 in 2017. And smartphone voice assistant users requested an average of 10.7 tasks weekly, up from 8.8 in 2020.

This shows that the r1 can play an important transition role in the audio space by driving hardware designers and software developers in the direction of building more voice-based interoperable applications. Alternatively, Rabbit inc can also build a super app – something like WeChat to enable chatter between apps in a smartphone to 'get things done.'

That's a call Rabbit Inc. should take based on the feedback it receives from its customers. As on January 19, five batches of 10,000 (batch size) rabbit r1 devices have been sold out. And the first batch will start shipping in April. Customer experience with this new gadget will play a big role in how deep r1 will take consumers down the rabbit hole.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

Roe versus Wade was a landmark decision of the U.S. Supreme Court on January 22, 1973. Here is a quiz on the decision, and the rules of abortion in the U.S.

Sindhu Nagaraj

QUESTION 1
What is the name of the plaintiff, who under the pseudonym Jane Roe brought this case to the court?

QUESTION 2
The said plaintiff (answer to the first question) wanted an abortion in which U.S. State? A case was later filed alleging that abortion laws were unconstitutional in this State. Name the State.

QUESTION 3
Despite criticism, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the right to have an abortion as established by the "essential holding" of *Roe versus Wade* through this 1992 landmark decision. What is the case called?

QUESTION 4
In 2022, the Supreme Court overruled both the cases (Roe and answer to question 3) holding that the Constitution of the United States does not confer a right to abortion. What is this case called?

QUESTION 5
This is a hypothesis about the long-term effect of abortion on the political balance of the United States. This theory suggests that since supporters of the legalisation of abortion cause the erosion of their political base, the practice of abortion will eventually lead to the restriction or illegalisation of abortion. What is it called? Which newspaper in America coined this term?

Visual question:
This is an anti-abortion rally led against the practice of abortion every year in the U.S. What is it called? In which city is it predominantly held?

Questions and Answers to the January 19 edition of the daily quiz: 1. The first author of the B2FH paper titled 'Synthesis of the Elements in Stars'. **Ans: Margaret Burbidge**
2. Name the element on the Periodic Table whose nucleus is the lightest for which fusion releases less energy than it consumes. **Ans: Iron**
3. Scientists have hypothesised that stars have two main fusion reactions by which they convert hydrogen to helium. The first is the proton-proton cycle and the second is this. **Ans: CNO cycle**
4. When a star ' dies', its core starts to collapse rapidly under the weight of its own gravity while its outer layers are blown away. This blow-away pushes a large number of neutrons through its surroundings. Name this process. **Ans: r-process**
Visual: Identify this diagram. **Ans: Hertzsprung-Russell diagram**
Early Bird: Vikram Singh

KNOW YOUR ENGLISH

I need to make it in time for the interview!

He does not believe in a normal office job. He has always been such a maverick

S. Upendran

What is the difference between 'on time' and 'in time'? (T. Jayapradha, Mysore)

If you have a class at 11 AM and you enter the classroom at exactly 11AM, then you are 'on time' for class. 'On time' means punctual. When planes and trains arrive at the scheduled time – not a minute before or a minute after – then, they are 'on time'. Of course, this is something that seldom happens in our country. Indians are not known for their punctuality –for being 'on time'.

Our physics teacher is always on time. For a change, the flight arrived on time.

When you are 'in time' for a meeting, you arrive a few minutes before the scheduled time – not one or two hours before, but only a few minutes before. If a train that is scheduled to arrive at 11:15 AM arrives at 11:13 AM, then it is 'in time'. If it arrives at 11:16, it is late!

The Chairman called to say that he wouldn't be in time for the meeting.

What is the meaning of 'maverick'? (Sheila Rao, Kochi)

There are different ways of pronouncing this word; one simple way is to reduce it to two syllables. In this case, the first syllable 'mave' rhymes with 'have', and the second with the words 'sick', 'chick' and 'lick'. The word is pronounced 'MAV-rick' with the stress on the first syllable. It is also possible to pronounce the 'e' like the 'a' in 'china'. When you do this, the word is pronounced 'MA-ve-rick'. When you call someone a 'maverick', what you are suggesting is that the person is a rebel; he is very independent and does not blindly follow others. He is a non-conformist, and being unpredictable, creates his own set of rules – which he does not hesitate to follow. The word can be used as a noun and an adjective.

Despite the death threats, the maverick publisher brought out the books on time.

The word comes from the name of an individual. Samuel Augustus Maverick was the name of a well-to-do lawyer turned politician who lived in the state of Texas in the 19th century. The story goes that a rancher once gave Maverick 400 cows for winning a case. Maverick, who had no interest in cows, allowed the animals to wander around on his highly fertile land. It was standard practice those days for ranchers to brand their cows – using a red hot branding iron, the owner's initials or the ranch's name was burnt into the flesh the animal. This enabled people to identify their animal easily – thus preventing a lot of dispute among ranch owners. Maverick, however, refused to brand his cattle. Being the rebel that he was, he claimed there was no need for him to brand his cows. He argued since all other ranchers were branding their cows, those that remained unbranded, were his.

upendrankye@gmail.com

Word of the day

Harangue:
a loud bombastic declamation expressed with strong emotion; address forcefully (used as a noun and a verb)

Synonym: rant

Usage: *Everybody ignored his harangue about the boss.*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/haranguepro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /həˈɹæŋ/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

Cut-outs of Lord Ram and Prime Minister Narendra Modi put up on Mysuru Road -Chord Road junction, ahead of the Ram temple consecration ceremony, in Bengaluru on Sunday. K. MURALI KUMAR

Temple consecration: Tight security in sensitive areas of city

While no rallies or congregations will be allowed, the State police are worried about rumour-mongering and provocations on social media

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Police patrolling and deployment increased across Karnataka on Sunday ahead of the consecration of the Ram Lalla idol at the Ram temple in Ayodhya.

The State police have deployed 150 battalions of the Karnataka State Reserve Police (KSRP) and 250 companies of the City Armed Reserve (CAR) and the District Armed Reserve (DAR) in sensitive towns and points across Karnataka, including Bengaluru.

Security deployment has been particularly tightened in the communally sensitive coastal Karnataka, Shivamogga, Chikkamagaluru, Hubballi, Belagavi, Vijayapura, and certain pockets in Bengaluru city. "We have mapped all past communal disturbances and tightened security in those places," a senior official said.

The police have not given permission to either any celebratory procession or any protest on Monday. "There were many requests before us to permit celebratory processions, but we have rejected all of them. But the Vishwa Hindu Parishad has appealed to devotees not to hold any rallies and celebrate in individual homes. We had not got any requests for protests for Monday," a senior police official overseeing the bandobast across the State said.

A rally being taken out around CBD areas. K. MURALI KUMAR

"In the backdrop of the temple inauguration programme in Ayodhya, I have instructed the police to take preventive measures to ensure that no untoward incidents occur in the State and to maintain peace and order," Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said in an official statement.

Rumour-mongering

While no rallies or congregations will be allowed on the streets, the police are worried about rumour-mongering and provocations on social media, and even through flex and banners in some cases.

"It has come to my attention that some miscreants are spreading false news and provoking innocent people. Upon hearing such news, one should not panic or get agitated but should immediately inform the nearest police station. Under no circumstances should anyone take the law into their own hands," Mr. Siddaramaiah further said.

The police have had to bring down provocative banners, celebrating the temple in multiple cases across the State, even as it had to deal with miscreants tearing down the temple banners in districts like Kolar.

"We are keeping a close watch on social media and trying to act on provocative posts. There have been provocative social media posts from both sides. We are trying to get these posts down in real time to prevent any fallout on the streets," said a senior official monitoring this aspect.

"The police have conducted peace meetings with leaders of religious groups in all sensitive towns and police limits and have appealed to them to maintain peace," the official added.

"God, religion, worship, and devotion are all personal matters. If these are kept personal, it will bring respect to god and religion, and welfare to the society. This applies to all followers of all religions," the CM wrote on social media.

Congress and BJP spar over declaring a public holiday today

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Amidst a demand by the Opposition Bharatiya Janata Party and the Janata Dal (Secular) to declare a public holiday on Monday on the occasion of consecration of the Ram idol at Ayodhya, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Sunday said that the Congress government does not need a lesson on religion and that pressure should not be brought on the government for declaring the holiday.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah in Tumakuru clarified that the government will not declare a public holiday on Monday.

He also said that he would be inaugurating a Sri Ram Mandir in Mahadevapura constituency in Bengaluru on Monday.

"We have continued our culture and tradition by following rituals. We do not need lessons from others on religion and devotion. Pressure should also be not brought on the government [to declare holiday]," the Deputy Chief Minister told presspersons here.

His response came after both the opposition parties urged the government to declare the public holiday. "We do not use devotion, respect and religion for publicity. We also believe that prayers help us and that is why we have asked people to offer prayers".

Muzrai Department

Pointing to an earlier direction from the Muzrai Department to over 33,000 Muzrai temples in the State to offer special prayers on Monday, Mr. Shivakumar said: "Even before others could tell us, the Muzrai Department had directed for special pujas in Muzrai temples. Whatever rituals and pujas have to be conducted in temples, they will be done."

He said: "There is Ram in Mr. Siddaramaiah's name and Shiva in my name. There is no need for others to preach to us or bring pressure on us. We will fulfil our responsibility. There should be religion in politics, but politics should not be there in religion."

Earlier, Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly R. Ashok urged the State government to declare the public holiday.

Since several programmes have been organised across the State, not declaring the holiday could come in the way of celebrating the consecration of the Ram idol at Ayodhya by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, he added.

Mr. Ashok said: "Every home and all pilgrimage centres are celebrating by lighting lamps and by organising Sri Rama Aradhane. The Union government has also declared half-a-day holiday on Monday. To enable people to participate in the celebration, it is better to declare a holiday".

'Historic day'

Terming the State government's decision as "unfortunate", the BJP State president B.Y. Vijayendra told presspersons here that Monday was a historic day.

"Both the BJP and the JD (S) have urged the State government to declare the holiday to enable people to watch this historic event. Unfortunately, the Congress government led by Mr. Siddaramaiah has not made it a holiday. Even now it is not too late and the government can take a decision".

Endorsing the BJP's views, former Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy said that the BJP is reflecting the sentiments of the common man, who is demanding the holiday.

While Chief Minister clarified that Monday will not be a public holiday, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar said that the Congress government does not need a lesson on religion. FILE PHOTO

NIMHANS declares half-day holiday

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS) has declared a half-day holiday till 2.30 p.m. on Monday, on account of the Ram Lalla Pran Pratishtha at Ayodhya.

"However, all the clinical services including OPD, IPD, emergency, diagnostics, community services, all hospital and patient care services will function as usual," said a circular from NIMHANS.

All clinical services will function as usual on Monday.

The Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) Medical College and Hospital will also be closed for half a day on Monday, while shift duties and emergency services will function as usual.

Apart from these, all Union government offices, Central institutions and industrial establishments will be closed for half day (up to 2.30 p.m.) as per a directive from the Union Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions.

'Civil societies need to act as a check to both the state and the market'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bapu Ke Log, a coalition of Gandhian activists, released a manifesto to address the "civilisational polycrisis of our times, which at its core is the climate change crisis borne out of automation of work."

Theatre personality and activist Prasanna said the core of the manifesto was the demand for implementation of the "70-30 economy", where there shall be at least 70% human labour involved in the production of all goods and services.

"We believe, annihilation of labour, also known as the programme of complete automation, is at the root of our present crisis. Annihilation of labour is evil, both materially and morally. On the one hand, it is making the great mass of human beings jobless. And on the other hand, it is breaking the sacred link between god and human beings. Bapu ke Log intends to save religion by linking it up, all over again, with the saintly traditions," the manifesto said.

"In order to cover up for the evil, new godheads are being installed. The old gods (Rama, Shiva, and Shakti) who represented labour-driven cultures and moral governance, are now being brazenly refashioned. Bapu ke Log believes in gram swaraj. We have decided to go back to the people and launch a non-violent satyagraha. We want the faithful to reestablish faith, by establishing a true Ram rajya,"

Theatre personality Prasanna, economist Vinod Vyasulu, historian and writer Ramachandra Guha, and Anil Hegde, MP, releasing the manifesto of 'Bapu ke Log' in Bengaluru on Sunday. K. MURALI KUMAR

> We need a revitalisation of civil societies, working towards mitigating the impact of the present civilisational crisis.
>
> **RAMACHANDRA GUHA,** Historian and writer

the resolution adopted on Sunday read, making a tangential reference to the Ram temple at Ayodhya.

Speaking at the event, historian and Mahatma Gandhi biographer Ramachandra Guha said: "We need a revitalisation of civil societies, working towards mitigating the impact of the present civilisational crisis. Civil societies need to act as a check to both the state and the market".

Timings
BENGALURU

MONDAY, JAN. 22	
RISE 06:46	SET 18:16
RISE 15:19	SET 03:47
TUESDAY, JAN. 23	
RISE 06:46	SET 18:16
RISE 16:13	SET 04:43
WEDNESDAY, JAN. 24	
RISE 06:46	SET 18:17
RISE 17:09	SET 05:38

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	31	22
Mysuru	32	20
Bengaluru	29	18

Bengaluru Today
29ºC A dry weather to prevail. Morning will be cool with mist and haze. Day will be slight warm. Night will be cool and hazy.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
30ºC The weather will be dry. Morning will be cool with mist and haze. Day will be slight warm. Night will be slight cool and hazy.

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THE HINDU
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INBRIEF

JD(S) demands arrest of Pradeep Eshwar's followers

JD(S) State president H.D. Kumaraswamy has urged the government to arrest the followers of Chickballapur MLA Pradeep Eshwar for allegedly issuing death threats to a JD(S) worker for questioning the legislator about the delay in implementing his promise.

In a press release, the JD(S) alleged that Congress workers had behaved like goondas in Chickballapur by issuing death threats to a JD(S) worker.

The release said that a party worker had been threatened when he questioned Mr. Eshwar why the statue of the late JD(S) and cooperative leader K.B. Pillappa had not been installed though six months had passed since the MLA had assured people of the constituency of installing it.

Statue of Ambigara Chowdaiah will be installed in Bengaluru: Tangadagi

Kannada and Culture Minister Shivaraj Tangadagi on Sunday announced that a statue of social reformer and vachanakara Nijasharana Ambigara Chowdaiah would be installed in Bengaluru.

The Minister, who announced this while inaugurating a programme organised in Bengaluru by the Kannada and Culture Department to mark the birth anniversary of Ambigara Chowdaiah, said already places had been identified in the city for installing the statue. "We will soon finalise the place from among the different locations," the Minister said.

The main intention of observing the birth centenaries of such great personalities and social reformers is to create awareness among the youth about the life and message of such personalities, the Minister said.

Council elections: Senior BJP, JD(S) leaders meet to discuss seat-sharing

Meeting decides to allow BJP central leadership to take a call on the matter. While bypoll for one Council seat will be held on Feb. 16, election for six more seats is slated to take place later this year

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Talks under way: JD(S) State president H.D. Kumaraswamy and BJP State president B.Y. Vijayendra at a meeting in the presence of the former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa in Bengaluru on Sunday.

With the date of the first election after the BJP and the Janata Dal (Secular) formed the electoral alliance in the State coming closer, aspirants in both parties are keeping their fingers crossed. On Sunday, senior leaders from the two parties met at the residence of BJP veteran B.S. Yediyurappa here to discuss the modalities and agreed to allow the BJP central leadership to decide on the upcoming election to the Legislative Council.

While the byelection to one seat of the Council is being held on February 16, the election for six more seats in the Upper House is slated for later this year. The bypoll to the Council from the Bengaluru Teachers' constituency has been necessitated following the resignation of Puttanna, a BJP member who resigned and joined the Congress to contest the Legislative Assembly polls from Rajajinagar in May 2023. While A.P. Ranganath has been trying from the JD(S), BJP sources said there are multiple candidates trying for the party ticket. The last date for submitting nomination for the byelection is January 30.

"There is no confusion among us about the candidates. We discussed in detail and leaders of both parties have exchanged their views. It has been decided that we will send the list of candidates to our national president J.P. Nadda," BJP State president B.Y. Vijayendra told pressmen after the meeting that was attended by several senior leaders from the two parties, including the former Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy and Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly R. Ashok.

Mr. Vijayendra said, "Discussions have been meaningful. Over the next few days, efforts will be made to bring coordination among grassroots workers of the two parties. There is no problem now. However, it is necessary that workers of both parties have to coordinate and cooperate in the elections. Today's discussions have been in this regard.

Mr. Kumaraswamy said the issue would be sorted out amicably and the meeting chaired by Mr. Yediyurappa went on well. "Whatever we have decided will be sent to the BJP high command, following which an announcement will be made".

Lok Sabha polls

While Mr. Vijayendra said the seat-sharing between the two parties for the Lok Sabha polls would be decided by senior leaders of the two parties, Mr. Kumaraswamy said it would be sorted out in the coming days.

'By Feb second week'

A JD(S) source said they are expecting the seat-sharing to be completed soon after Parliament session ends in the second week of February. "We know our strength and we will not ask for more than what we can chew. The goal is to win all the seats that the alliance will contest". Though the likely seat-sharing was not revealed, JD(S) sources said the party was expecting between four and six seats.

CM: Have suggested shifting Bangalore Turf Club to Kunigal Stud Farm

A file photo of the Kunigal Stud Farm.

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Refusing to comment on the announcement of an integrated township at the historical Kunigal Stud Farm, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Sunday said he had suggested shifting of Bangalore Turf Club (BTC) to Kunigal.

When asked about the social media post of Urban Development Minister B.S. Suresh on the integrated township at the stud farm, the Chief Minister evaded a direct answer and told presspersons in Tumakuru: "You ask him about it".

Responding to questions on the proposed closure of the stud farm, started by Tipu Sultan, the Chief Minister said he had suggested shifting of the Bangalore Turf Club from the heart of Bengaluru to Kunigal. "There is about 400 acres of land in Kunigal Stud Farm and about 80 acres there (at the BTC)."

> There is about 400 acres of land in Kunigal Stud Farm and about 80 acres there (at the BTC).
>
> **SIDDARAMAIAH,** Chief Minister

Mr. Siddaramaiah said the State government was giving ₹1,500 for a quintal of copra over the MSP fixed by the Centre. "Though there is a demand that the State government should provide ₹3,000 a quintal, it is providing financial assistance as per its capacity. The Centre is paying ₹12,000 a quintal".

He said the government would consider declaring January 21 as Dasoha Day. "I do not know the context in which the earlier government declared January 21 as Dasoha Day. I will consider it."

IGR has to avail of Aadhaar verification service to avoid impersonation using forged card: HC

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka has said that the Department of Stamps and Registration will have to take steps for registering itself as a service provider of Aadhaar digital authentication services to verify the identity of persons at the time of document registration to avoid impersonation using forged Aadhaar card.

The court also directed the Inspector-General of Registration (IGR) to prepare a project report in this regard and submit it before the court within four weeks for initiating Aadhaar authenticity through digital mode.

Justice Suraj Govindaraj passed the order while disposing of a petition filed by Ramesh of Bagalkot.

The petitioner had claimed that encumbrance was created on his land by a person by registering documents based on a forged Aadhaar card.

The court pointed out that in terms of the Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016, any service provider could register with the UIDAI and obtain a sanction to verify the identity on the basis of OTP generated on the phone number of the holder of the Aadhaar card.

The IGR should take steps for registration for Aadhaar services and verify the authenticity of the Aadhaar card and identity of the person and only thereafter proceed with the registration of a document whenever Aadhaar is produced as proof of identity for registration, the court said.

State to write to Centre to confer Bharat Ratna on Shivakumar Swami

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Tribute: Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and BJP veteran leader B.S. Yediyurappa during the inauguration Smruthi Vana laid out in memory of Shivakumar Swami, in Tumakuru on Sunday.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Sunday said the State government would write to the Centre to confer the Bharat Ratna on the late seer of Siddaganga Mutt Shivakumar Swami.

He was speaking in Tumakuru after inaugurating the Smruthi Vana, laid out in the memory of Shivakumara Swami, on the seer's fifth death anniversary. "The late seer should be conferred the Bharat Ratna. I will write to the Centre in this regard," he said.

The Chief Minister said: "The principles of the Constitution and Basava Sharana remain the same. The Indian Constitution is like a religious text for us. It is the Constitution that has uplifted the people of this country." He said his government was working based on D.M. Nanjundappa committee report to bridge the North-South divide in the State.

"It is through education that discrimination can be overcome. The government is implementing five guarantees as per the teachings of the Sharanas and the guarantees will work in the direction of achieving equality in society," he said.

CORRIDORS OF POWER

Old rivalries hard to bury

The former Minister B. Shivaramu and Arsikere MLA K.M. Shivalinge Gowda *(in picture)*, who have been politically opposed to each other for many years, have now become colleagues in the ruling Congress. Both of them, however, cannot seem to bury their past.

Mr. Shivalinge Gowda began his career in the H.D. Deve Gowda-led JD(S) and contested unsuccessfully against Mr. Shivaramu for the erstwhile Gandasi seat. His fortune changed in 2008, when he contested in the Arsikere constituency, as Gandasi lost its presence following the delimitation of constituencies. Since then, he has been winning in the Arsikere constituency.

Ahead of the 2023 Assembly polls, he joined the Congress and retained the seat.

As the parliamentary elections are approaching, Mr. Shivaramu proposed Mr. Shivalinge Gowda as the party's candidate for the Hassan seat, currently being represented by Prajwal Revanna (JD-S). He maintained that Mr. Shivalinge Gowda, the only Congress MLA in the district, is the most suitable candidate.

This has irked Mr. Shivalinge Gowda to no end since he is more interested in getting a ministerial berth in the Congress government and not in contesting the Lok Sabha elections. It seems Mr. Shivalinge Gowda, who was loyal to Mr. Deve Gowda's family earlier, sees this as a ploy to deny him a shot at the ministerial berth.

Reluctant Ministers

It is not just MLAs and MLCs, but even Ministers in the Siddaramaiah-led Congress government are not keen on contesting elections to the Lok Sabha. A few Ministers have been reportedly told to prepare to contest the general elections as there are no winnable candidates in the party in some constituencies. However, the Ministers, who won the Assembly elections just eight months ago and managed to get berths amid immense competition, have declined the offer apparently made by the party high command. Many leaders are believed to have declined to contest the elections sensing that the party may not secure majority seats in the Lok Sabha. Moreover, they believe that they enjoy more power being Ministers in the State rather than being members of the Lower House of the Parliament.

Stick to the topic

A team of women Members of Parliament from the Bharatiya Janata Party recently visited some places in Belagavi district to express moral support to a woman who is a victim of atrocity in her village. The women leaders met the victim in the hospital, spoke to her relatives and discussed the issue with investigating officers and activists. Some local BJP leaders accompanied them. However, their interaction with reporters remained incomplete. Reporters asked them if they had visited violence-hit Manipur that had witnessed several atrocities against women. The team gave no satisfactory answer and when pressed for an answer, Mahantesh Kavatagimath, senior leader and former MLC, cut short the question-and-answer session and told the reporters to ask questions only about the "more important" Belagavi incident and other things.

Sathish G.T.
Nagesh Prabhu
Rishikesh Bahadur Desai

A 'laptop *anna*' helping students from poor, marginalised segments

Nagesh Prabhu
BENGALURU

Supporting them: KPCC general secretary B.S. Shivanna has so far distributed more than 300 laptops to children of pourakarmikas, street vendors, and daily wage earners. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

B.S. Shivanna, general secretary of the Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC), is called 'laptop *anna*' by several college students, thanks to his efforts to bridge the digital gap among students belonging to the poor and marginalised sections by distributing laptops for free.

Mr. Shivanna, a native of Bandur village in Malavalli taluk of Mandya, has distributed more than 300 laptops to children of pourakarmikas, street vendors, daily wage earners, and so on, studying in various classes. According to the government data, close to 40% of students have had no access to any gadget in the State, and this gap became stark during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Shusheela Koraga, a postgraduate student belonging to the Koraga (ST) community, who is researching on Jenu Kuruba community in the University of Mysore, said the laptop donated by Mr. Shivanna had helped her in the research work. Raghavesh A.N., a resident of Maddur now pursuing MSc in Veterinary Science at IVRI at Bareilly in Uttar Pradesh, is another beneficiary. "My parents are marginal farmers. I was unable to buy a laptop till my graduation," he said. He secured 16 gold medals in BSc from Karnataka Veterinary, Animal and Fisheries Sciences University, Bidar.

Also the president of Lohia Vichara Vedike, Mr. Shivanna, who holds engineering and law degrees, said, "I purchase laptops in bulk and donate them to deserving students who are facing financial difficulties but are good in studies."

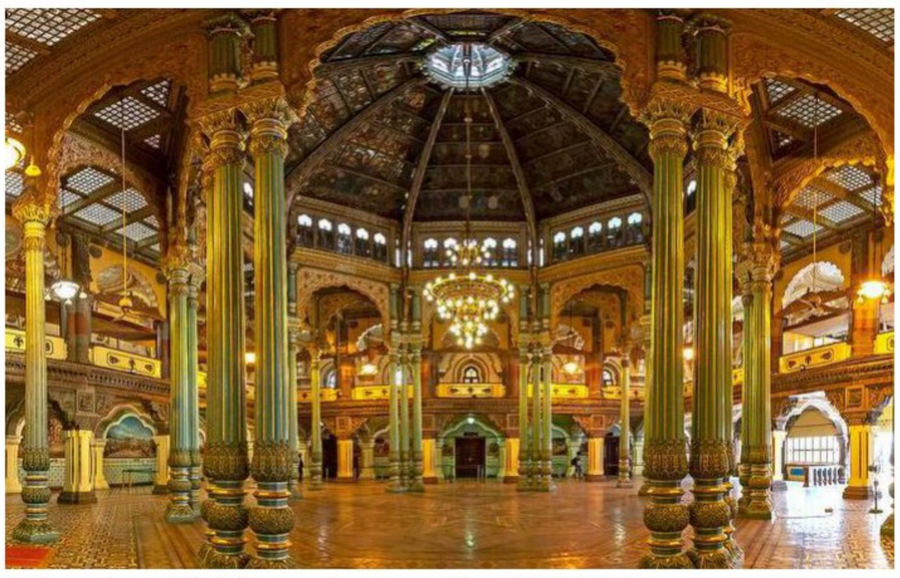
The Congress leader said his intention is to motivate MPs, legislators, and other rich leaders to come forward and help students.

Mr. Shivanna organises 'Pratibha Puraskara' every year in his home town and gives cash awards to students securing more than 85% marks in SSLC and PUC. He has provided free buses to 6,000 students of Malavalli taluk. He also conducts job fairs, the latest one was held in December 2023 at Malavalli.

Into the palaces and monuments of Mysuru and Srirangapatna

At a recent lecture in Bengaluru, George Michelle, founder-trustee of the Deccan Heritage Foundation, spoke about the built legacy of the Wadiyars and Tipu Sultan

Preeti Zachariah
BENGALURU

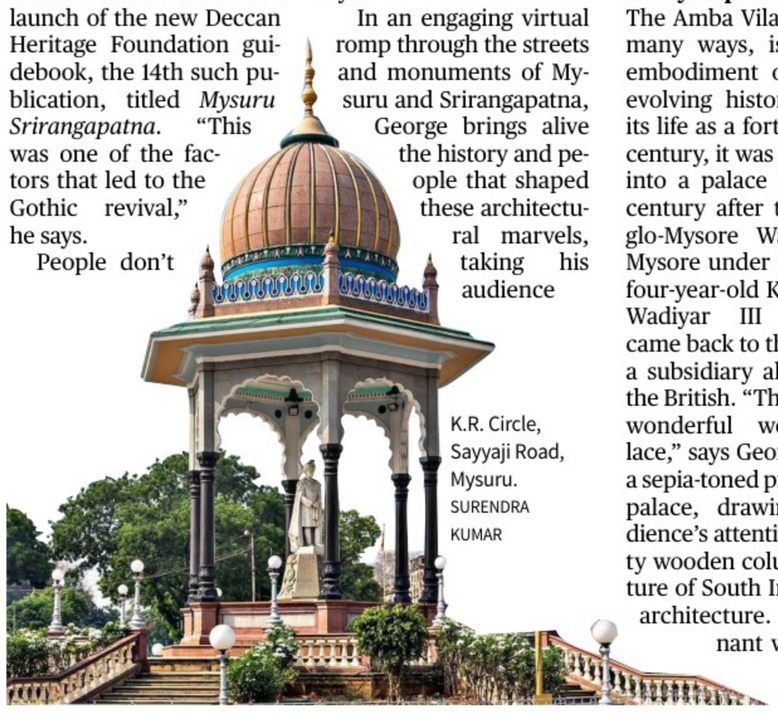

Cast-iron columns in the kalyana mantapa, Mysore Palace. SURENDRA KUMAR

George Michelle talks about the inspiration behind *Von deutscher Baukunst*, German poet Johann Wolfgang von Goethe's seminal essay about Gothic architecture. At the end of the 18th century, Goethe found himself walking past the Strasbourg Cathedral of Our Lady, today considered to be one of the finest examples of Gothic architecture, a style prevalent in Europe during the Middle Ages before being dismissed as ugly and outdated by the torchbearers of the Renaissance movement that had swept across the continent between the 14th and 17th century.

"No one had noticed it since the 12th century," he says at a recent illustrated lecture titled *From Royal City to Island Citadel* at the Bangalore International Centre in Domlur on January 18. "Goethe wrote about it, and suddenly, people started looking at it," adds George at the talk, which coincided with the launch of the new Deccan Heritage Foundation guidebook, the 14th such publication, titled *Mysuru Srirangapatna*. "This was one of the factors that led to the Gothic revival," he says.

People don't always notice the heritage architecture of the cities they inhabit, believes George, a founder-trustee of the Deccan Heritage Foundation and one of the authors of this new guidebook, which delves into the built legacy of the Wadiyars and Tipu Sultan. "One of the purposes of the guidebook is to execute this task. It is going to be a preview of the architectural legacies and wonders of Mysuru," he says.

In an engaging virtual romp through the streets and monuments of Mysuru and Srirangapatna, George brings alive the history and people that shaped these architectural marvels, taking his audience straight into colonial India between the 18th and 20th centuries. Projecting an oil panorama by a British artist, which depicts the 1799 Siege of Srirangapatna that led to the killing of Tipu Sultan in the battle, the beginning of British supremacy in South India and the restoration of the Wadiyar dynasty, he says, "After this was when Mysuru comes up architecturally."


K.R. Circle, Sayyaji Road, Mysuru. SURENDRA KUMAR

A city of palaces

The Amba Vilas palace, in many ways, is a perfect embodiment of Mysuru's evolving history. Starting its life as a fort in the 16th century, it was repurposed into a palace in the 19th century after the 4th Anglo-Mysore War brought Mysore under the Raj and four-year-old Krishna Raja Wadiyar III eventually came back to the throne in a subsidiary alliance with the British. "They built this wonderful wooden palace," says George, sharing a sepia-toned picture of the palace, drawing his audience's attention to its lofty wooden columns, a feature of South Indian Royal architecture. "So dominant was this image of what a palace should be like, it even turned up in mural paintings," he says of this palace, which, unfortunately, no longer exists in this avatar: it was burnt down in 1897 during the wedding of Princess Jayalakshammanni.

In its place came up an Indo-Saracenic structure, replete with the bulbous domes and towers so typical of this hybrid style, which "mingles Indian, Mughal and European architectural styles," as George points out. The queen regent Vani Vilas Sannidhana, "a very capable woman", immediately got in touch with the leading British architect, Henry Irwin (incidentally, also the man behind Chennai's government museum, law college, high court and public library) and commissioned the construction of this new palace.

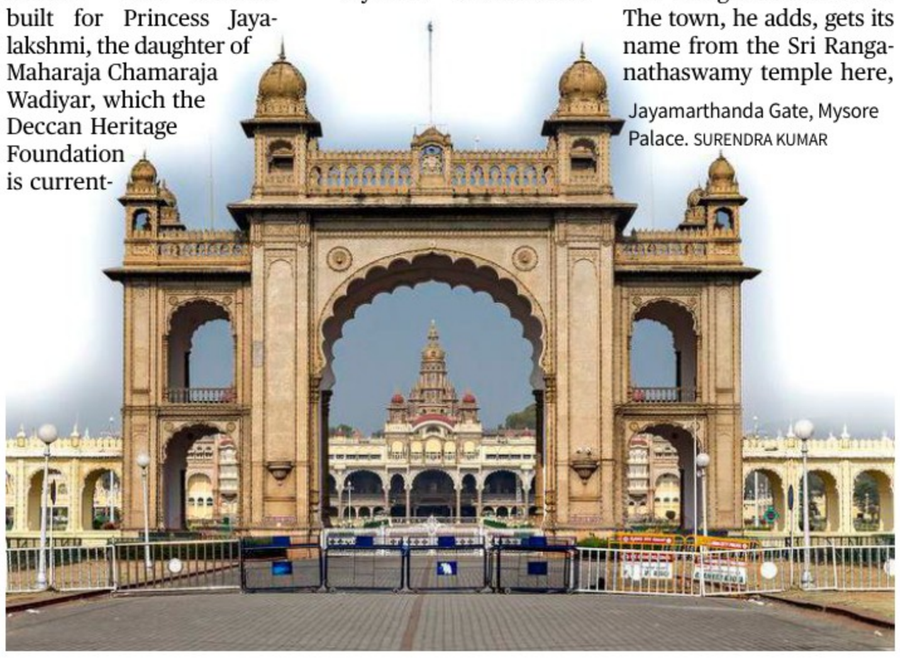
The palace, which was completed in 1912, has gone through numerous additions and modifications since then, but it continues to be "a fantastic idea of what a royal space should look like," says George, sharing numerous photos of its exteriors and interiors, including the various temples in the complex and the magnificent kalyana mantapa, or marriage hall, whose octagonal peacock-embossed stained glass ceiling is supported by iron pillars made in Glasgow. "It is one of the imaginative interiors we have in Mysuru," he says..

Gumbaz, where the tombs of Hyder Ali and Tipu Sultan are located. SURENDRA KUMAR

Vikramajit Ram (left) and Dr. George Michell during the talk.

Amba Vilas is not the only royal residence in the city. George lists out some of others—the Jaganmohan Palace and Art Gallery, filled with wonderful pictorial art, including many by Raja Ravi Varma; the Jayalakshmi Vilas Mansion built for Princess Jayalakshmi, the daughter of Maharaja Chamaraja Wadiyar, which the Deccan Heritage Foundation is currently restoring; the Cheluvamba Mansion, built for a Mysuru princess, today housing the Central Food Technological Research Institute (CFTRI); and the Lalitha Mahal, built in by Maharaja Krishnaraja Wadiyar IV in 1921 to house European guests, now a luxury hotel. "They (The Wadiyars) must have had enormous sums of money," quips George, alluding to the fortune that must have been spent to construct the numerous palaces in the city.

Mysore's architectural heritage goes far beyond her many palaces. George introduces his audience to some of them, including the Mughal-style dome at K.R. Circle; the gazebo at Kuppanna Park, originally named Nishat Bagh, after the Mughal gardens in Kashmir that inspired it; British buildings such as Government House, Hardwicke Church, the Krishnarajendra Hospital and the magnificent neo-gothic St. Philomena's Cathedral, built thanks to the instigation of the Sir TRA Thumboo Chetty, the acting Diwan of Mysore back then, a staunch Catholic. "The royal city has a real presence architecturally, " believes George.


Jayamarthanda Gate, Mysore Palace. SURENDRA KUMAR

Other attractions

He also goes into the built legacy of Srirangapatna, the capital of Tipu Sultan and Hyder Ali, expanding on the ancient island town's elaborate fortification.

"Bridges were required to reach it," he says, exhibiting a photograph of the Wellesley Bridge, named after Richard Wellesley, who was the Governor-General of India when it was inaugurated in 1804. The town, he adds, gets its name from the Sri Ranganathaswamy temple here, an important pilgrimage site dedicated to the "reclining form of Vishnu, floating on the cosmic ocean." The temple, which dates back to the 12th or 13th century, was well maintained even during the period of Hyder and Tipu, with the latter having donated two silver vessels to it. Also, Tipu, who was killed in the fort of Seringapatam, was buried here with full honours, says George, sharing a photograph of the interiors of the mausoleum where the Tiger of Mysore is buried alongside his mother and father. "The designs and decoration of this monument are exquisite," he says, pointing to the walls and vaults of the tomb chamber, which are all covered with Babri or stylised tiger-stripe motifs.

Fight for conservation

George ends his lecture by talking about a monument that is very much in the news right now: the Lansdowne Building or Range Bazaar, which, along with the Devaraja Market, is in danger of being demolished. "It is a major piece of architecture," he says, recalling how he had told the people who'd attended the *Mysuru Srirangapatna* launch at Mysuru on January 16 that they should fight for the conservation of this building.

"There will be a way of stabilising, restoring it and bringing it up to date, keeping the façade," he says, pointing out that Italian hill towns are full of 15th-century buildings that have modernised the interiors, without jeopardising the exterior façade. While he admits that doing the same in India may be challenging, he firmly believes it is possible. "This is a building that I hope everyone in this part of the world will fight for," he says.

KIA Bengaluru wins best airport of the year award in 2024

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) has been recognised as the Best Airport of the Year at Wings India Awards 2024.

At the award ceremony held in Hyderabad on January 18, the airport was also conferred with the '>25 MPPA Traffic Award' under the airports category.

Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL), the airport operator, stated: "To ensure smooth passenger flow and a stress-free experience, the airport has increased the number of entry gates, check-in counters, and informative display boards. International operations have been moved from Terminal 1 (T1) to the new Terminal 2 (T2), which spans 255,661 square metres, equipped to handle 25 million passengers annually. Immigration and emigration counters have also been expanded, further reducing wait times and enhancing the overall journey."

Sophisticated vehicles for DRDO

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Gopalan Aerospace, Bengaluru-based Indian aerospace industry, has dispatched a custom-built, four-axle, hydraulic suspension, steerable ground vehicle capable of carrying a hefty 54-tonne payload to the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). The project was completed within eight months. The company said that the highly sophisticated vehicles, specifically designed for defence applications, offer unparalleled robustness and manoeuvrability.

Their robust trailer design, equipped with hydraulic suspension and steerable wheels in both automatic and manual modes, allows them to navigate even the most challenging terrains with ease.

Lies, damned lies and democracy

The greatest threats to democracy often come through elections

ABOUT 500 WORDS

Suresh Menon

Given below is a set of clues. Identify the Prime Minister based on them. He is known for

- Leaks to friendly media
- Lying to friends, country, Parliament
- Sidelining the Cabinet
- Being "Lightly encumbered with political principles
- Being indifferent to suffering
- Wanting a country that would glorify and gratify him
- Being indifferent to principles

This could be confusing because the description fits more than one world leader. But in fact they are taken from the British media coverage of the COVID-19 inquiry into the sins of omission and commission by Boris Johnson when he was Prime Minister.

The writer and academic Rory Stewart, said of Johnson, "He's probably the best liar we've ever had as a prime minister. He knows a hundred different ways to lie."

Former U.S. President Donald Trump speaks during a campaign event in Concord, New Hampshire, U.S. on January 19. BLOOMBERG

It could apply to another leader too. Former U.S. President Donald Trump is having his own reality check. In a television interview he said that if he came back to power he would be "dictator for a day" and do exactly what he wanted to do, before presumably settling down to lead democratically.

Trump is redefining democracy. This happens sometimes when your politics is neither right nor left but centred. Around yourself. Democracy in that case is what is "best for me." It is a form of government that decides just how much he can get away with.

According to a data base compiled by *The Washington Post*, Trump made more than 800 inaccurate claims about the election from the time the polls began closing in 2020, to the end of his presidency.

Perhaps we need to tweak a cliché and talk about lies, damned lies and democracy!

The best argument against democracy is a five-minute conversation with the average voter, said Winston Churchill. Or perhaps a three-minute conversation with your average leader (some of whom are pretty average). Democracy is a device which ensures we shall be governed no better than we deserve, wrote George Bernard Shaw, and there are probably as many definitions of 'democracy' as there are those who oppose it. "Misappropriation of the word is a testament to democracy's appeal," as one writer has said.

After Vladimir Putin became President of Russia, he said modestly, "I am the world's only true democrat." Perhaps there was a supplement: "...and anyone who disagrees will be thrown in jail." Xi Jinping has said that China has "Chinese-style democracy", and clarified that "Democracy is not Coca-Cola, tasting the same across the world as the syrup is produced in one single country..."

The greatest threats to democracy often come through elections. Hugo Chávez (Venezuela), Viktor Orbán (Hungary), and Recep Tayyip Erdoğan (Turkiye) were elevated in free and fair elections.

The Economist calculated in 2022 that eight percent of the world lives in a full democracy and another 37.3 percent in flawed ones. More than half the world suffers from either authoritarian or hybrid regimes. Interestingly, both the U.S. and India figure under 'flawed' democracies, while the U.K. is seen as a full democracy.

Taste the feeling, as Coca-Cola says.

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO JANUARY 22, 1974

Total Rural Electrification in Next Plan

Kadur, Jan 21: Mr. H.M. Chennabasappa, Minister for Public Works and Electricity, switching on electric lights at Shanooghanahalli village on January 17, said that in the next Five-Year Plan, all the 25,000 villages of Karnataka would be electrified. He warned the villagers that if payment towards supply of electricity was not made in time as per rules, power would be disconnected. He called upon the Panchayats to collect the amounts due by the consumers regularly and credit it to the Electricity Board. Mr. M Mallappa MLA, Birur, presided.

Later, Mr. Chennabasappa laid the foundation stone for an under bridge in Birur town.

This under bridge will cost Rs. 8 lakhs.

Call to end political Hold on Trade Unions

Bangalore: Addressing the concluding session of the two-day research workshop on industrial relations, organised by the Institute of Management here to-day Mr. M.D. Shivananjappa, Chairman and Managing Director of Mysore Industrial Investment and Development Corporation, stressed the need for divorcing "the present political hold on trade unions in the interests of bringing lasting industrial peace and fostering growth of the Indian economy".

Mr. Shivananjappa complimented IA Chairman, Air Marshal P.C. Lal, for the manner in which the IA labour unrest had been tackled.

CITYBEATS

Republic Day celebrations

JANUARY 26
Khandani Rajdhani will celebrate Republic Day with a Tri-Color Feast. The signature vegetarian *thali* will come with dishes that will pay homage the tri-colour. Some of the dishes that you can look forward to include *tiranga dhokla*, *tiranga* fruit and *lassi*, *tirangi pulao*.
This menu will be available for lunch and dinner.
At all Khandani Rajdhani outlets

Game point

ONGOING
Tennis fans can head towards any Social outlets, which will screen the Australian Open 2024 live on large screens, in association with Sony Sports. While you dig into their range of food and drinks. The matches will be screened.
Call 8657039459, 919152017971 and 8369049396 for details.
On till January 28 at SOCIAL BEL Road, Nagawara and Church Street.

Attakkalari India Biennial

JANUARY 23
The 11th edition of Attakkalari India Biennial commenced on January 21 will continue across Bengaluru till March 2024.
As part of this festival, watch, *Sparks, Mahabharata Opera Project*. Music is composed by Riccardo Nova, directed by Giorgio Barberio Corsetti and the dance is choreographed by Jayachandran Palazhy. For details visit http://attakkalaribiennial.org/
At Ranga Shankara, 7.30pm

A contemporary beach music festival

The three-day beach festival, Alboe by the Beach, brings hip-hop talent from South India alongside Indie stars and Bengaluru's Pineapple Express, Space Is All We Have and Frizzell D'Souza

Note the serenity The scenic Varkala beach will see artistes like rapper Brodha V, Taba Chake, Paloma and Arivu. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Amarjot Kaur

Varkala beach in southern Kerala, lined by cliffs and skirted by the Arabian Sea, is now donning a new identity – one that will turn it into a sonic escape for music aficionados who are carving a contemporary beach music festival in South India. It all began when Vishnu Shyamaprasad, during the production of his feature film *Thrishanku*, which made its Netflix debut seven months ago, and the film's music director Jay Unnithan discovered a myriad of young emerging talents in the Indian music industry. And lo, behold! The seeds of the first edition of Alboe by the Beach were planted. The three-day music festival, slated for February 9, is Lacuna Pictures' debut open-air music festival curated over a span of six months.

The festival brings musicians from various genres: like rappers Brodha V, Arivu, Baby Jean, MC Couper, Paal Dabba, Reble, Hanu-Mankind; singer-songwriter Taba Chake; rock bands like Chennai's The F16s and Bengaluru's Pineapple Express and Space Is All We Have; and electronic sets by Mary Ann, Sunflower Tape Machine and DJ and surfing enthusiast Paloma Monappa. It also has pop sensation Jeremiah De Rozario from Kochi, Bengaluru-based singer-songwriter Frizzell D'Souza and Wayanad's rock band Matadori. "We are a multi-genre festival with a curated set of genres for each edition. For Volume 1 of Alboe by The Beach we are featuring hip-hop, indie rock and pop as the main genres of the music being performed by the artistes," says Vishnu, the director of the festival.

He lists nearly 20 artistes who will be taking the stage at the festival and explains the choice of the line-up, stating it was primarily influenced by the quality of the artistes' music. "50% of the line-up consists of young emerging talents we think have potential, and half the line-up consists of known names from the Indian music scene. Our artiste selection team consists of music industry professionals – Sange Wangchuck and Akash Agarwal from Bengaluru – and overseen by me," explains Vishnu.

The festival, he adds, will feature one massive main stage. "We have divided the genres based on the days, where the first day is for singer-songwriters and pop bands, second day is for hip-hop and rap, and the third day is for indie rock bands with a grand ending featuring Pineapple Express. There will also be a separate DJ booth featuring local DJs who will keep the crowd entertained before and in between sets," he shares.

Planned as a beach carnival, the festival will also feature art installations designed by local artistes, beach games, and lip-smacking delicacies, both local and international. It also has an extensively curated flea market, focusing on regional and indigenous art, handicrafts, and festival merchandise. Besides these, it focuses on sustainability and limiting its environmental impact, given its location, and has declared itself as a plastic-free festival with no plastic allowed on site.

Alboe by the Beach will be held at Varkala beach from February 9 to 11. Tickets start at ₹1,049 on insider.in.

4 city watering holes feature in 30BestBars India list

Shonali Muthalaly

It is midnight in Goa and the graveyard shift is on at Elephant & Co. Seven popular bars from across India are doing takeovers in turn, making cocktails for a heaving crowd, with the menu changing every 45 minutes.

The influential 30 Best Bars Award have just been announced in an action-packed ceremony at the Taj Cidade De Goa, with Sidecar from Delhi, winning the title of the country's best bar. The award winning space, is known for its trendsetting cocktail programme.

The high energy team from Cobbler &Crew in Pune, a crowd favourite, comes in second, and Lair in Delhi, known for its experimental cocktails, is third.

They are followed by Copitas at the Four Seasons in Bengaluru, Hideaway in Goa and ZLB23, a luxurious speakeasy at the Leela Palace in Bengaluru.

The awards also introduced a new category this year for the best non-alcoholic cocktail menu, recognising a surge in demand for drinks that move away from the syrupy mocktails of the past.

It was won by Chennai's Pandan Club, a Peranakan restaurant. Vikram Achanta, who co-founded 30BestBars with Radhakrishna Nair, says they created the award when they noticed a growing trend of bars catering to people cutting back on, alcohol.

"We realised the drinks were becoming more sophisticated, with the same techniques applied to alcoholic cocktails," he says, adding "I think this is part of the evolution of the Indian bar landscape... It gives people more opportunities to have a good night out."

Recognising changes in the country's bar and restaurant scene, 30BestBars also launched an award for the best work in sustainability last year.

This year it went to two bars in Pune: Soy Como Soy, with Cobbler & Crew. (which had a good night out, winning the Best Bar Team, with Aashi Bhatnagar also winning an award for best bartender.)

Explaining the process of putting the awards together, Vikram says about 275 people connected to the industry voted to determine which bars make the short list. "We have about 350 bars on the long list, and about 60 self nominations. In addition to the cocktail programme, we look at the quality of bar talent and management, the design and aesthetics. We look at how much they are investing in ice, and glassware."

Stating that many of the rankings this year were closely fought affairs, especially among the country's top bars, which were separated by just a few votes, Radhakrishna adds, "Every year, we re-evaluate our award categories to stay relevant with what's taking place in the bar landscape, both nationally and internationally."

In its fourth year, 30BestBarsIndia shifted the ceremony to Goa from Delhi this year to recognise the State's vibrant bar scene, with inventive new spaces opening through the year.

As a result, Goa was festive with activity, particularly over the weekend of the awards, with about 35 to 40 bar takeovers, all culminating with the joyful after-party at Elephant & Co.

Winners take it all (clockwise from left)Team Sidecar from Delhi is India's best bar, Team Cobbler & Crew and Manoj Padmanabhan, one of the partners at Pandan Club receiving best non-alcoholic cocktail menu SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Awards

1) Sidecar - New Delhi
2) Cobbler & Crew - Pune
3) Lair - New Delhi
4) Copitas- Four Seasons Hotel, Bangalore
5) Hideaway - Goa
6) ZLB 23 - The Leela Palace, Bangalore
7) The Bombay Canteen Mumbai
8) HOME - New Delhi
9) Masque - Mumbai
10) Slink & Bardot - Mumbai
11) Comorin - Gurgaon
12) PCO - New Delhi
13) Hoots' - New Delhi
14) Americano - Mumbai
15) Cocktails & Dreams, Speakeasy - Gurgaon
16) PCO - Mumbai
17) Slow Tide - Goa
18) The Bar - The Oberoi Grand, Kolkata
19) Whisky Samba - Gurgaon
20) Bob's Bar - Indiranagar, Bangalore
21) Native Cocktail Room - Jaipur
22) O Pedro - Mumbai
23) Olterra- Kolkata
24) Windmills - Bangalore
25) Pablo's - Goa
26) Joseph Bar - Goa
27) Ekaa - Mumbai
28) The Library Bar - The Leela Palace, New Delhi
29) TOIT - Bangalore
30) For The Record: Vinyl Bar Goa

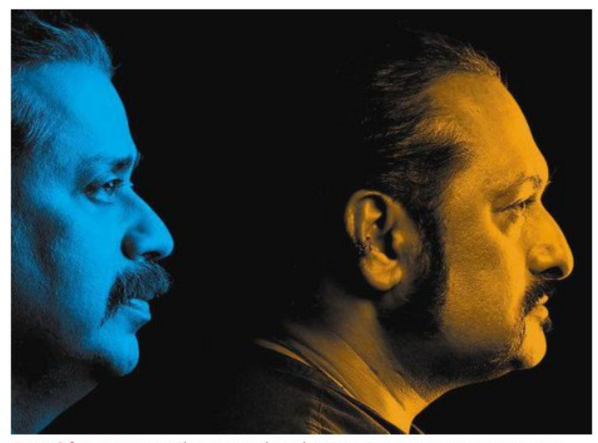
Colonial cousins reunion tour

Bollyboom Colonial Cousins Reunion 11 City Tour 2024 commenced on January 19 in Pune as part of Phase I of the multi-city tour. The duo will visit Bengaluru and then head to Delhi, Hyderabad and Mumbai. Phase II will see the Colonial Cousins travel to Coimbatore, Chennai, Kochi, Jaipur, Indore and Kolkata.

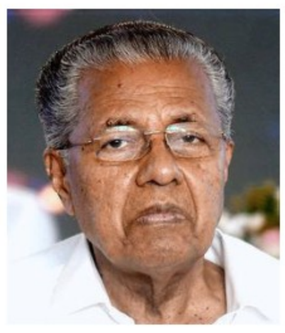
Colonial Cousins is a 90's Indian musical duo comprising Hariharan and Leslee Lewis, who achieved immense success with their eponymous debut album, which went platinum in India and dominated music charts in 1996. Colonial Cousins garnered numerous accolades including the MTV Asia Viewers' Choice Award and the US Billboard's Viewers' Award. Their song 'Krishna' got 6.2 million views on YouTube.

Hariharan is a playback, bhajan and ghazal singer, who has sung over 15,000 songs in 10 languages and was conferred with the Padma Shri in 2004. he is also a two-time National Award winner. Leslee, popularly known as Lezz, is known for conceiving and creating all the music for Coke Studio, MTV India's debut season, besides composing and producing music for artists like Kay-Kay and Sunita Rao.

They will perform in Bengaluru on January 27. Tickets and details on BookMyShow



A rocking tour Hariharan and Leslee Lewis SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



Pinarayi Vijayan

Central agencies turn accused into approvers: Kerala CM

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Sunday lashed out at Central investigation agencies over the prime accused in a cooperative bank scam case turning into approvers.

In an apparent reference to two of the accused in the scam at the Karuvannur Service Cooperative Bank recently expressing their willingness to become prosecution witnesses, he said this was being done as part of a plan to target political opponents. He was speaking after inaugurating the ninth Kerala Cooperative Congress here.

Mr. Vijayan said greed had led to corrupt practices in several sectors, including the cooperative sector.

He said the department was currently implementing safeguards to prevent those who are part of the administration of cooperatives from obtaining loans for themselves or for their relatives through wrongful means.

T.N. people will not vote for Modi in 2024 Lok Sabha election too: Stalin

India will follow Tamil Nadu's approach, the CM says and predicts a conclusive defeat for BJP in the ensuing election

V.S. Palaniappan
B. Kolappan
SALEM/CHENNAI

DMK president and Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on Sunday said the Tamil Nadu people had not voted for Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the last two elections, and would not vote for him in the upcoming Lok Sabha polls as well.

"India will follow Tamil Nadu's approach in the [2024] Lok Sabha election," he said at the DMK's youth wing conference in Salem, held under the theme of retrieving States' rights. Predicting a conclusive defeat for the BJP in the ensuing election, Mr. Stalin, hoping for a government headed by the Opposition's INDIA bloc in the Centre, said, "It will not be an autocratic government. It will be federal in nature and respect States. It will do good for Tamil Nadu and put India on the path of progress..."

Confident of victory: CM M.K. Stalin speaking at the DMK's youth wing conference in Salem on Sunday. E. LAKSHMI NARAYANAN

Though Mr. Modi had been a Chief Minister of a State (Gujarat), he was bent on destroying States' rights ever since he became the Prime Minister, Mr. Stalin said, adding: "The BJP government had deprived States of their rights on education and finance through the National Education Policy, NEET and GST, and converted States into just an Automatic Teller Machine of the Union government." When the State was hit by a natural disaster (floods), despite appealing to the Prime Minister, Finance Minister, Defence Minister and Home Minister, no help was forthcoming he said.

Mr. Stalin said the BJP leaders were under the impression that they could deceive the Tamil Nadu people and get their votes by reciting *Tirukkural,* celebrating Pongal and constructing a Ram temple. "They have not understood us so far. It is the land of Periyar, Anna and Kalaignar," he added. He further said that the DMK government remained a proof of what would happen if a movement committed to social justice, equality, self-respect, fraternity, rights of State, love for language, rights for women and the oppressed, was elected to power.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday

TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Monday: Dense fog likely in some parts over Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, West Bengal. Squally weather with wind speed 45-55 kmph gusting to 65 kmph very likely to prevail over south west Arabian Sea along and off Somalia coast. Fishermen are advised not to venture in these areas

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	22.6	11.6	Kozhikode	—	34.5	25.6
Ahmedabad	—	27.7	14.4	Kurnool	—	33.5	22.1
Aizawl	—	23.4	8.5	Lucknow	—	11.8	7.3
Allahabad	—	16.3	88	Madurai	0.5	28.0	23.4
Bengaluru	—	29.5	17.9	Mangaluru	—	31.8	23.1
Bhopal	—	21.7	7.4	Mumbai	—	29.6	19.8
Bhubaneswar	—	27.7	19.1	Mysuru	—	29.5	—
Chandigarh	—	14.1	5.2	New Delhi	—	15.7	5.6
Chennai	—	31.0	21.0	Patna	—	30.8	23.0
Coimbatore	—	30.7	20.6	Port Blair	—	—	19.2
Dehradun	—	18.0	6.2	Puducherry	—	—	—
Gangtok	—	13.4	6.8	Pune	—	31.2	17.2
Goa	—	32.0	20.4	Raipur	3.6	23.5	15.5
Guwahati	—	24.8	11.4	Ranchi	—	23.2	11.4
Hubballi	—	34.0	18.0	Shillong	—	15.6	3.9
Hyderabad	—	31.7	19.4	Shimla	—	12.1	2.6
Imphal	—	22.3	2.9	Srinagar	—	12.4	-4.8
Jaipur	—	20.0	7.3	Thiruvananthapuram	0.6	34.2	24.1
Kochi	6.0	31.8	25.4	Tiruchi	—	31.3	24.6
Kohima	—	16.4	4.5	Vijayawada	—	30.1	21.2
Kolkata	—	20.2	15.2	Visakhapatnam	—	29.0	21.4

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	6	11	.12	125	112	
Bengaluru	9	15	.34	—	80	
Chennai	7	11	.58	105	125	
Delhi	.16	.61	.64	99	394	
Hyderabad	.12	9	.22	55	78	
Kolkata	5	.41	8	328	215	
Lucknow	.10	.34	.93	301	217	
Mumbai	.20	—	—	174	124	
Pune	118	176	109	85	88	
Visakhapatnam	.13	.44	.56	146	148	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Jahangirpuri, Delhi recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 399 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Nacharam_TSIIC IALA, Hyderabad recorded a healthy AQI score of 78.

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Revanth Reddy appoints close aides as Telangana government advisers

R. Ravikanth Reddy
HYDERABAD

Narender Reddy, Adviser (Public Affairs) to the CM, joined Congress along with Revanth

The Telangana government has appointed Vem Narender Reddy, Shabbir Ali and Harkara Venugopal as advisers to the government in the rank and status of Minister of State, while another leader has been made the Special Representative in New Delhi in the same rank.

Vem Narender Reddy, who is a close confidant of Mr. Revanth Reddy has been appointed as the Adviser (Public Affairs) to the Chief Minister. Mr. Narender Reddy was an MLA for Mahabubabad representing the Telugu Desham Party (TDP) in undivided Andhra Pradesh. He joined the Congress along with Mr. Revanth Reddy ahead of the 2018 State Assembly election. They both share a warm relationship since their TDP days.

Over the past two years, he has been the eyes and ears of Mr. Revanth Reddy.

Former Minister Shabbir Ali has been appointed Adviser to SC, ST, BC and Minority Departments in the rank of Minister of State in Telangana.

Strong supporter

Mr. Ali, another aide of the Chief Minister, was one of the few who stood behind Mr. Revanth Reddy when he was vying to become the Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee president.

Telangana Congress protocol in-charge Harkara Venugopal has been appointed Adviser to Protocol and Public Relations. He will hold the rank of a Minister of State.

Dr. Mallu Ravi has been appointed Special Representative of the Telangana government in New Delhi. Mr. Ravi, who is the brother of Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka and a strong supporter of the Chief Minister, held the same position in the combined Andhra Pradesh in the Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy government. He is also the former MP from Nagarkurnool.

BRS faults appointment of advisers by Congress govt.

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

The Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) has criticised Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy for appointing advisers to the government, after opposing similar appointments made by BRS government.

"It was he who questioned the need for advisers and said that there would not be any in case the Congress forms the government," BRS leader Ravula Sridhar Reddy said.

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KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED

No.: 908/BGK/Tr(W&M)/SE(E)/EE(O)/AEE(E)-2/F-53/5330-41 Date: 20.01.2024

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPPP Portal Only)

KPTCL invites tenders in e-tendering mode for the following works **on Partial Turnkey Basis**:

(1) Bid Enquiry No: KPTCL/2023-24/SS/WORK_INDENT52/CALL-2 for "Providing additional 1x10MVA, 110/11kV Power Transformer along with 11kV switchgears at **110kV Aski sub-station** in Sindagi Taluk, Vijayapura District".

(2) Bid Enquiry No: KPTCL/2023-24/SS/WORK_INDENT53/CALL-2 for "Providing additional 1x10MVA, 110/11kV Power Transformer along with 11kV switchgears at **110kV Atharga sub-station** in Indi Taluk, Vijayapura District".

(3) Bid Enquiry No: KPTCL/2023-24/SS/WORK_INDENT54/CALL-2 for "Providing additional 1x10MVA, 110/11kV Power Transformer along with 11kV switchgears at **110kV Devaragennur sub-station** in Babaleshwar Taluk, Vijayapura District".

(4) Bid Enquiry No: KPTCL/2023-24/SS/WORK_INDENT55/CALL-2 for "Providing additional 1x10MVA, 110/11kV Power Transformer along with 11kV switchgears at **110kV Hirebevanur sub-station** in Indi Taluk, Vijayapura District".

(5) Bid Enquiry No: KPTCL/2023-24/SS/WORK_INDENT56/CALL-2 for "Providing additional 1x10MVA, 110/11kV Power Transformer along with 11kV switchgears at **110kV Hiremural sub-station** in Muddebihal Taluk, Vijayapura District".

(6) Bid Enquiry No: KPTCL/2023-24/SS/WORK_INDENT57/CALL-2 for "Providing additional 1x10MVA, 110/11kV Power Transformer at **110kV Honawad sub-station** in Tikota Taluk, Vijayapura District".

(7) Bid Enquiry No: KPTCL/2023-24/SS/WORK_INDENT58/CALL-2 for "Replacement of 1x10MVA, 110/33kV Power Transformer by 1x20MVA, 110/33kV Power Transformer at **110kV Indi sub-station** in Indi Taluk, Vijayapura District."

(8) Bid Enquiry No: KPTCL/2023-24/SS/WORK_INDENT59/CALL-2 for "Providing additional 1x10MVA, 110/11kV Power Transformer along with 11kV switchgears at **110kV Moratagi sub-station** in Sindagi Taluk, Vijayapura District".

(9) Bid Enquiry No: KPTCL/2023-24/SS/WORK_INDENT60/CALL-2 for "Providing additional 1x10MVA, 110/11kV Power Transformer along with 11kV switchgears at **110kV Takkalaki sub-station** in Vijayapura Taluk, Vijayapura District".

The details regarding participation in the KPPP process can be obtained by logging on the KPTCL website **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** on hyperlink **"e Procurement KPTCL"** or to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **11.00 Hrs IST of 23.01.2024.** Any other details can be had from the office of the undersigned during office hours.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer(E), Transmission (W&M) Circle, KPTCL, Divisional Office Complex, Opp Sector No. 45, Navanagara, Bagalakote-587103, Ph: 08354-236032 & 236029.

Government of Odisha
Sports & Youth Services Department

SYS-OE-OE-0007-2024/ 2290, Date:20/01/2024

Request for Proposal

Sports & Youth Services Department, Government of Odisha invites bids from reputed Catering agencies to the RfP on **"Provision of professional trainers & other manpower for various sports facilities in Odisha".** The details of the document are available at the below mentioned websites .

E-tender portal : https://tendersodisha.gov.in/
DSYS Website : https://sports.odisha.gov.in/tenders-advertisement

Interested firms / parties / agencies are advised to study the RfP document carefully before submitting their bid.

Important Dates and Information:

Date of Publication - 20/01/2024
Pre-Bid meeting - 29.01.2024 at 12:00 noon
Last date and time of submission of proposal - 12.02.2024 up to 03:00 PM
Opening of the Technical Bid - 12.02.2024 at 04:00 PM

Sd/-
Commissioner-cum-Secretary

TT : OIPR-29001/11/0174/2324

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA - DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER, CENTRAL IRRIGATION CIRCLE, BHUBANESWAR.
'e' Procurement Notice No. ACECIC-37/2023-24

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Name of Work	Cost of Work (Rs. in Lakhs)	Bid Security (Rs.) E.M.D.	Cost of Bid Documents (Rs.)	Class of Contractor	Bid documents available online for bidding From	Bid documents available online for bidding To	Date of Opening of Technical Bid	Period of Completion of Work
ACE, CIC, Bhubaneswar	NID-23/2023-24	Improvement to Astaranga Minor from RD.00 to 5.338 Km of Kakatpur Branch Canal System.	808.69	808700/- (On Line)	10000/- (On Line)	"A" & "Special" Class	22.01.2024 At 10.00 Hours	05.02.2024 At 17.00 Hours	06.02.2024 At 11.00 Hours	12 (Twelve Calendar Month)
	PRD-16/2023-24	Construction of Spur at RD.62.140 Km with Restoration to old Spur at RD.61.30 Km on KSDR Embankment.	660.94	606100/- (On Line)	10000/- (On Line)	"A" & "Special" Class	22.01.2024 At 10.00 Hours	05.02.2024 At 17.00 Hours	06.02.2024 At 11.00 Hours	12 (Twelve Calendar Month)
	PRD-17/2023-24	Protection to Service Bank on KSDR Embankment from RD 21.20 Km to 21.60 Km near Tithapada.	374.68	374700/- (On Line)	10000/- (On Line)	"A" Class	22.01.2024 At 10.00 Hours	05.02.2024 At 17.00 Hours	06.02.2024 At 11.00 Hours	12 (Twelve Calendar Month)

e-mail ID:- **secic_dowr@yahoo.com**
Further details conditions can be seen from Govt. website:**www.tenderodisha.gov.in**

A-1274 : **Additional Chief Engineer, Central Irrigation Circle**
OIPR-32160/11/0044/2324

CHENNAI METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Thalamuthu Natarajan Building, No.1, Gandhi Irwin Road, Egmore, Chennai - 600008

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) – e-Procurement Notification (Consulting Services – Firm selection)

The Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority (CMDA) is actively working on Coastline Development projects with the objective of conserving and enhancing the extensive shoreline of Chennai. CMDA invites eligible consulting firm to submit their proposals for providing the services for the below-mentioned assignment.

1. Consultancy Services for the Preparation of Feasibility Report and Detailed Project Report for Reimagining Kovalam Beach
2. Consultancy Services for the Preparation of Feasibility Report and Detailed Project Report for Reimagining Ennore Beach
3. Consultancy Services for the Preparation of Feasibility Report and Detailed Project Report for Reimagining Besant Nagar Beach

The RfP document & ToR are available on the website **http://tntenders.gov.in** as tabulated below:

Details	Kovalam	Ennore	Besant Nagar
RfP No.	NT1/0193-1/2024 dt.19.01.2024	NT1/0193-2/2024 dt.19.01.2024	NT1/0193-3/2024 dt.19.01.2024
Last date and time of receipt of e-tenders	22.02.2024 upto 1500 hrs	22.02.2024 upto 1500 hrs	22.02.2024 upto 1500 hrs
Downloading the tender document	22.01.2024 to 15.02.2024 upto 1500 hrs	22.01.2024 to 15.02.2024 upto 1500 hrs	22.01.2024 to 15.02.2024 upto 1500 hrs

The proposal shall be submitted only through the website mentioned. Any other mode of Submission of the proposal through email, speed post, courier, etc. will not be considered. Any further Corrigendum or Amendment shall be notified on the website **http://tntenders.gov.in** only. Consultants shall regularly visit the website to keep themselves updated. For any communication mail at **shorelinecmda@gmail.com**

Member Secretary
DIPR/ 309 /Tender/2024 **Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority**

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
DIST HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE SOCIETY
DIST HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE OFFICE KALABURAGI

No. RCHO/NHM/K/2023-24 Date: 19.01.2024

CALL-3 TENDER

1) Commodity: **20** Vehicles on the basis of outsource for the team of RBSK to the 7 taluka Health office. Under RBSK Programme. 4 Wheeler Vehicle (4+1 Seated Capacity & 2020 & above Model) Called for Vehicle Tenders Services by registered Tours & Travels/ Vehicle owner/Agency fore Providing Vehicles with Drivers, 2) Approximate Amount: As Per KPPP Portal. 3) Details of Tender EMD: **Total 20 Vehicles Tender Details.** Programme-RBSK Vehicle (With Air condition), Rs Per Month Per Vehicle-29000, No of Vehicles-20, No of Months-12, Per Year Amount-6960000, EMD Amount-Total Vehicle 174000, EMD Per Vehicle-8700. 4) Starting Date of Submission of Tender form: **20/01/2024 Morning 10:00.** 4) Last Date of Submission of Tender form: Date : **30/01/2024 Evening 4:30.** 5) Opening Date of Technical Bid Date:- **01/02/2024 Evening 4:30,** 6) Opening Date of Financial Bid Date:- **05/02/2024, Morning 11:00,** 7) Contact for More Details : Member Secretary, District Health & F.W Society, Kalaburagi PH.No 08472-278620

Sd/- Member Secretary
District Health& F.W Society, Kalaburagi

DIPR/Kalaburagi/701/KSMC&A/2023-24

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿಗಳ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಶ್ರೀ ಮಲೈ ಮಹದೇಶ್ವರಸ್ವಾಮಿ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ
ಮಹದೇಶ್ವರಬೆಟ್ಟ, ಹನೂರು ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಚಾಮರಾಜನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ.
ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : 08225-272128 ಫ್ಯಾಕ್ಸ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : 08225-272123 Email: sec.mmtemple@gmail.com
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಶ್ರೀ.ಮ.ಮ.ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರ.ಅ.ಪ್ರಾ/ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ/8/ಜಿಆರ್/42/2023-24 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 08-01-2024

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (2ನೇ ಕರೆ)
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಇ-ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಮಾತ್ರ

ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ	ಹಕ್ಕುಭಾಧ್ಯತೆ ವಿವರ	ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಅವಧಿ	ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ.ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)	ಇಎಂಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ (ಶೇ.1 ರೂ.ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)
1	ಶ್ರೀ ಮಲೈ ಮಹದೇಶ್ವರಸ್ವಾಮಿ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರಕ್ಕೆ ಸೇರಿದ **ಮುಡಿ ಮತ್ತು ಮುಡಿ ಕಾಣಿಕೆ ವಸೂಲಾತಿಯ** ಹಕ್ಕು ಭಾಧ್ಯತೆಯನ್ನು **ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್**ನಲ್ಲಿ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 01-04-2024 ರಿಂದ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 31-03-2025 ರ ವರೆಗೆ 1 ವರ್ಷದ ಅವಧಿಗೆ ಪಡೆಯುವ ಬಗ್ಗೆ.	**1 ವರ್ಷ**	**300.00**	**3,00,000=00**

ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದು ಮತ್ತು ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ಅವಧಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಶ್ರೀ ಜಿ.ಎಲ್. ಚಂದ್ರಶೇಖರ್, ಉಪ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿ ರವರ ಮೊಬೈಲ್ ನಂ. **9902593369** ರವರಿಂದ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು. ಸ್ಪಷ್ಟೀಕರಣಬೇಕಾದಲ್ಲಿ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿಯವರ ಮೊಬೈಲ್ ನಂ. **8277682882** ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸತಕ್ಕದ್ದು.

ಇ-ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆಯಡಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ವೇಳಾಪಟ್ಟಿ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತಿದೆ

ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ	ವಿವರ	ದಿನಾಂಕ	ಷರಾ
1	ಇ-ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಗಳು ಚಾಲ್ತಿಗೆ ಬರುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ	**09-01-2024**	ರ ನಂತರ
2	ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ವೇಳೆ	**24-01-2024**	ಸಂಜೆ 5.00 ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ
3	ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ವೇಳೆ	**25-01-2024**	ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಂಜೆ 5.00 ಗಂಟೆಯ ನಂತರ ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/- ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿ
ಸಂ. ವಾ.ಸಾ.ಸಂ.ಇ:ಚಾ.ನಗರ:338/2023-24 ಶ್ರೀ ಮಲೈ ಮಹದೇಶ್ವರಸ್ವಾಮಿ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ, ಮಹದೇಶ್ವರಬೆಟ್ಟ.

KARNATAKA GOVERNMENT STOCK (SECURITIES)
Finance Department
Vidhana Soudha, Bengaluru.

1. Aggregate Amount: **Total Rs.5000 Crore, (Rs.2000 Crore (17 Year Tenure) and 3000 Crore (18 Year Tenure))**
2. Method of Issue : By auction, through PDO, RBI, Mumbai (Fort).
3. Date of auction : **January 23, 2024.**

Government of Karnataka invites subscription to the above securities. Copies of the Notification and Application forms may be obtained from PDO, RBI, Bengaluru. Non - competitive bidding facility has been introduced by RBI to encourage participation of retail investors. The Government stock up to 10% of the notified amount of the sale will be allotted to eligible individuals and institutions. Sample Tender Forms and the revised scheme of Non - competitive bidding facility is available on the website **www.rbi.org.in**

Sd/- (Dr. P. C. Jaffer)
Secretary to Government
DIPR/CP/RO/3111/2023-24 **(Budget & Resources), Finance Department**

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A backsliding

Curbs on financing of civil society bodies denote eroding civil liberties

Less than a year after suspending the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA) licence of the Centre for Policy Research (CPR), the Government of India has cancelled its FCRA licence. The justification for this move – CPR's publications have been equated with current affairs programming, prohibited for an entity using FCRA funds – is nothing if not farcical. As a premier think tank, the CPR has been around for more than half a century, during which it has been an exemplar of public-spirited scholarship feeding into an ecosystem of governance and policy-making where multiple stakeholders and their often divergent interests need consensus-building through informed debates – the hallmark of a democracy. A decision to effectively shut down such an institution by crippling its finances is bound to send the message that India is no longer open to the free flow of knowledge and ideas. The move also fits into a broader, and sadly, by now all-too-familiar, pattern of the state wielding the FCRA as a weapon to silence entities whose work is not to its liking – typically those working on environmental issues, civil liberties and human rights. The use of the FCRA to target civil society for political or ideological reasons is perhaps written into its DNA. The legislation is the child of the Emergency, enacted by a regime paranoid about foreign governments interfering in India's internal affairs by channelling funds through NGOs. Since then, it has been amended by successive governments, with the provisions becoming more stringent.

When the latest round of amendments was passed in 2020, the International Commission of Jurists denounced it as "incompatible with international law" and warned that it would "impose ... extraordinary obstacles on the capacity of ... civil society actors to carry out their important work". It appears as though the government has been working hard to prove the ICJ right. Even before dust could settle on the FCRA cancellation of CPR, World Vision India, which works with children, has had its FCRA cancelled. On the one hand, India seeks recognition as a 'Vishwaguru'. Its calling card as the G-20 host was 'Mother of Democracy'. The government is hypersensitive to rankings on international indices, yet unwilling to acknowledge the link between perception and reality. When the U.S.-based non-profit, Freedom House, in its Democracy Index, downgraded India to an "electoral autocracy", a reason it cited was erosion of civil liberties. Shutting off the finances of civil society organisations on flimsy grounds is a textbook example of civil liberties erosion, guaranteed to amplify the narrative of democratic backsliding. It would then be pointless to complain about bias or invoke "conspiracies" to tarnish India's image when these actions get reflected in India's downgrading in global indices of freedom and democracy.

Asia ascendant

Japan's partly successful moon landing sees Space Race with Asia in lead

On January 19, the Smart Lander for Investigating Moon (SLIM) spacecraft of the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA), launched in September, was expected to soft-land on the moon. Shortly after the stipulated time, reports from JAXA indicated the lander had touched down but its solar panels were not producing power, forcing the craft to bank on its batteries. However, SLIM, it said, appeared to be transmitting data, and checks of its other components did not indicate any damage – meaning Japan had become the fifth country to soft-land a robotic spacecraft on the moon. SLIM, like Chandrayaan-3, was tasked with a lunar soft-landing and deploying a rover mission (with two small rovers) but its primary mission was pioneering. Thus far, interplanetary spacecraft to the moon and Mars have been assigned suitable landing areas several hundred metres wide. SLIM however was designed to land within a 100 sq. m area, and thus its nickname "moon sniper". In a press conference in which they confirmed the controlled descent, JAXA officials also said it could be a month before they could ascertain if SLIM had successfully executed its pinpoint landing.

SLIM's partial success (for now) comes a day after a moon-landing mission built by Astrobotic, a private U.S. company, and funded by NASA, reentered the earth's atmosphere following a propellant leak. SLIM also happened roughly a month ahead of a landing attempt by another American company and four ahead of China's ambitious sample-return mission from the moon's far-side. JAXA's lessons from SLIM are expected to inform the planned Lunar Polar Exploration Mission, an India-Japan collaboration with India expected to provide the lander. Precision landing is valuable because it allows lunar missions to begin closer to a place of interest, where there may be a smaller patch suitable for landing, instead of landing further away and roving to the area. And the moon's surface around its south pole is mostly rough terrain. There are now five countries with the demonstrated ability to land robotic spacecraft on the moon. These plus the European Space Agency are the world's major spacefaring entities. No other such entity has a robotic lunar mission planned in the near future. Both the U.S. and Russia also last demonstrated their abilities in a bygone era, although the NASA Commercial Lunar Payload Services programme will be making frequent attempts, as with the Astrobotic mission. As such, the new Space Race is currently being led by Asian countries.

Post Office Act, its unbridled powers of interception

R.K. Vij

is a former Indian Police Service officer

On December 24, 2023, the President of India gave assent to the Post Office Bill, 2023 which will replace the colonial-era Indian Post Office Act, 1898, as and when a notification to this effect is issued by the central government. During the debate in the Parliament, the Opposition expressed fears about the provision on unchecked powers of interception of any item by the post office authorities, including the conditions of such interception, i.e., (occurrence of any) 'emergency' which is not defined under the Act. Another point is that there are also no procedural safeguards in the Act to check arbitrary use by the authorities or any liability in case the power of interception is misused.

Interception under central Acts

On December 24, the Telecommunications Bill, 2023 also received the President's assent which will replace two Central acts namely; the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 and the Indian Wireless Telegraphy Act, 1933. The Telecommunication Act has a provision, i.e., section 20(2) on interception of messages, which is similar to section 5(2) of the Telegraph Act of 1885 except that the contents of section 7(2)(b) of the Act of 1885 which empower the central government to notify rules on the precautions to be taken for preventing the improper interception or disclosure of messages are now included in section 20(2). Apparently, unless such procedure and safeguards are prescribed, section 20(2) cannot be brought into operation. This is significant because though the 1885 Act provided for making rules, the relevant rule (section 419A) was notified only in March 2007.

Section 69(1) of the Information and Technology (IT) Act, 2000 also provides for interception of any information through any computer source, though the necessary requirement does not call for the occurrence of 'any public emergency' or any demand in 'the interest of public safety' as provided for in the Telegraph Act or in the Telecommunication Act. Thus, the scope of interception under the IT Act is wider. Though the Act provides for 'the procedure and safeguards' to be prescribed by the central government, the necessary rules were notified only in October 2009.

The interception of phones under the Telegraph Act continued without any procedural safeguards in place till the Supreme Court of India, in *People's Union for Civil Liberties (PUCL) vs Union of India* (1996), laid down the procedure and safeguards to check arbitrariness and a misuse of powers by authorities. The Court held that telephonic conversations are often of an intimate and confidential character and, since phone tapping is an infringement of the right to freedom of speech and expression under Article 19 of the Constitution, it is permissible only if it comes within the grounds of restrictions under Article 19(2). The Court also held that since the right to privacy is a part of the right to life and personal liberty, under Article 21 of the Constitution, it cannot be curtailed 'except according to procedure established by law'. Also, 'the procedure itself must be just, fair and reasonable' 'to rule out anything arbitrary, freakish or bizarre'.

> The newly enacted Act does not make any provision for procedural safeguards to dispel fears of misuse of the substantive provision on interception

Since no rules were notified by the central government under section 7(2)(b) of the Telegraph Act by then, the Court laid down procedural safeguards which remained in operation till March 2007 when the central government amended the Telegraph Rules, 1951 and notified Rule 419A. This rule not only replaced the Court's directives but also made some space for interception in 'emergent cases' (in remote areas or for operational reasons) up to a maximum seven days when obtaining prior directions for interception is not feasible; thus, there was a further delegation of the powers of interception to the law enforcement agencies, such as to the ranks not below the Inspector General of Police at the State level.

The Court also elaborated upon parameters to comprehend the occurrence of 'public emergency' and 'public safety', and clarified that unless one of these two conditions is met, interception cannot be resorted to, no matter howsoever necessary or expedient it might be in the interests of the sovereignty and integrity of India, the security of the state, friendly relations with foreign states or public order or for preventing incitement to the commission of an offence. The central government also prescribed similar procedure and safeguards for interception under the Information Technology (Procedure and Safeguards for Interception, Monitoring and Decryption of Information) Rules, 2009.

Apprehensions about interception

While Rule 419A is likely to be replicated under the new Telecommunication Rules, the newly enacted Post Office Act does not make any provision for the procedural safeguards to dispel the fears of misuse of the substantive provision on interception.

The fact remains that the post office mostly transports items such as letters and postcards which are essentially of a confidential nature. The Supreme Court in *Distt. Registrar & Collector, Hyderabad & Anr vs Canara Bank* (2005) held that the right to privacy is not lost as a result of confidential documents or information being parted with by the customer to the custody of a bank. Therefore, the right to privacy is not lost if some personal items are entrusted to the post office for correspondence. The Court has also held in many judgments that the right to privacy imposes a requirement of a written recording of reasons before a search and seizure could be carried out.

In *Justice K.S. Puttaswamy (Retd.) & Anr. vs Union of India & Ors.* (2017), the right to communication has been held to be a part of the right to privacy and thus protected under Article 21 of the Constitution. Article 17 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 1966, to which India is a party, says that 'no one shall be subjected to arbitrary or unlawful interference with his privacy, family, home and correspondence nor to unlawful attacks on his honour and reputation'. According to Directive Principle 51(c) of the Constitution, international conventions must be respected unless they are in conflict with domestic laws.

In fact, 'the right of every citizen to the secrecy of his correspondence' was included in (clause 9(d)) of the draft report of the Sub-committee on fundamental rights. But this clause was eventually dropped on the ground that this might lead to practical difficulties in administration of the Posts and Telegraph Department and the relevant laws (the Indian Post Office Act, 1898 and the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885) permit interception of communication sent through post, telegraph or telephone only in specified circumstances. Similar was the fate of another clause 10 on searches and seizure also. But the Supreme Court, in *Puttaswamy*, observed that the Constituent Assembly had not expressly resolved to reject the notion of the right to privacy as an integral element of the liberty and freedoms guaranteed by the fundamental rights.

Therefore, the fears of misuse must be allayed by the central government with regard to the Post Office Act to circumvent intervention by the constitutional courts in future. This Act has made the interception provision more liberal by removing the two major conditions, namely 'the occurrence of public emergency' and 'in the interest of the public safety' which are specifically mentioned in the Act of 1898. As there is no provision with regard to procedural safeguards, any interception of items by the post office intrudes into the privacy of an individual and, therefore, must be backed by a just, fair and reasonable procedure. Also, the term 'emergency' being vague, it must draw inference from rule 419A of the Telegraph Rules or the IT Rules which clarify what constitutes the 'emergent' cases.

Consequences of unauthorised interception

Second, though a telegraph officer may be punished for any unauthorised interception under section 26 of the Telegraph Act, there is no provision for taking any action if the competent authority exceeds or misuses his powers of interception. This seems problematic because the interception documents are destroyed after a certain period of time. Similarly, though unauthorised interception is punishable under the Telecommunication Act, review committees are not bound even to recommend any disciplinary action for misuse of powers by the competent authority. The review committee may only set aside the order of interception and may issue orders for destruction of records. Therefore, the competent authority needs to be held accountable for any wilful misuse of interception powers, without the 'good faith' clause coming to their rescue. Otherwise, in case of infraction of the right to privacy under these statutes, relief (including compensation) could only be sought from the constitutional courts.

The views expressed are personal

A revival of the IMEC idea amid choppy geopolitics

M. Kalyanaraman

is a marine engineer-turned journalist

The Yemen conflict has seen an alarming erosion in the shipping industry's confidence in the Suez Canal continuing to be the backbone of east-west trade. Shippers are not baulking at taking the long, circuitous voyage around Africa.

The Yemen conflict has beefed up the case for the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) which the Gaza war has seemingly dealt a major, if not fatal, blow. Seshadri Vasan, Director-General of the Chennai Centre for China Studies, says that even if the Yemen conflict – ironically, an offshoot of the Gaza war – abates soon, it has made the case for viable alternatives to the Suez Canal stronger.

Critics of IMEC say the Arab Street would simply not allow any major trade link between Saudi Arabia and Israel many years after the Gaza war ends. A United States government press release of September 9 on the IMEC memorandum of understanding promised that stakeholders would meet within 60 days to flesh out the details, but the Gaza war has ensured that no such meeting could possibly happen.

Connecting Al Haditha in Saudi to Haifa in Israel is at the core of IMEC but it was always going to be challenging. Rail projects such as Etihad Rail and the GCC Railway (Gulf Railway), one of whose routes is proposed to terminate at Al Haditha, are already underway in the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia independently, which would dovetail with IMEC that targets ports such as Fujairah and Jebel Ali.

There will be a changed West Asia

Geopolitics is probably the biggest hurdle before IMEC. Harsh Pant, Vice-President for Studies at the Observer Research Foundation, says after the Gaza war, West Asia will look much different. Turkey, which has been explicitly left out of IMEC, has already been expressive about its irritation and proposed an alternative to Saudi Arabia and Israel through Iraq and itself to access the Mediterranean.

> The Yemen conflict has made the case for viable alternatives to the Suez Canal even stronger

But Mr. Pant hopes Turkey will eventually be brought into the project. He is also optimistic that the long-term trend towards greater trade and strategic links between Israel and Arab nations that was championed by the Abraham Accords will hold.

The political resurrection of Donald Trump has two implications, Mr. Pant says. IMEC will be the sort of project that would sync with a business-focused Trump if he were to become President of the U.S. again. What is in doubt is his patience and interest in a major global project, bolstering China's doubts regarding U.S. commitment towards the IMEC.

Hydrogen and containerisation

Besides trade, electricity and digital cables, IMEC is proposed to carry hydrogen pipelines. As the world moves towards decarbonisation, hydrogen produced from fossil fuel-based processes such as methane reforming will continue to be the transition fuel until electrolysis or other "green" processes become practical. Hydrogen sourced from fossil fuels would keep Gulf nations in business in the hydrogen economy too with the corridor serving that purpose.

For India, however, the containerisation through rail and road in IMEC is a big draw. Containerisation radically quickens trade, reduces port costs. India's National Logistics Policy, unveiled in 2022, seeks to lower logistics costs to global levels by 2030. Beefing up containerisation would be a key pathway towards achieving that goal.

In India, some 70% of containers move by road but optimum splits should be 30% road, 30% rail and the rest, coastal and inland shipping, says Ennarasu Karunesan, a shipping industry professional whose long career includes heading Chennai Container Terminal Terminal and Adani Ports & Special Economic Zone, Gujarat. "Road is faster but rail movement of containers is cheaper," he says.

The dedicated rail freight corridors that link to two IMEC ports of Mundra and the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT) will play into IMEC logic. But these rail projects skirt southern India, by and large. Containers in the south typically find their way to the Colombo transshipment container terminal via Chennai, Tuticorin/Thoothukudi and so on. The south can potentially leverage IMEC that promises to cut delivery schedules by 40% if it also sees dedicated freight corridors as part of an all-India network.

Possible template

Meanwhile, IMEC will have to undergo a key debottlenecking. Haifa cannot be India's main gateway to the West since its current container traffic is barely one third of Mundra or JNPT and a tenth of India's current container exports. The Adani stake in Haifa port could help sync it with Adani-owned Mundra in terms of planning for capacity expansion.

Ammar Malik, who leads the Chinese development finance programme for the Belt & Road Initiative at AidData, a research lab at William & Mary University, U.S., says IMEC will likely draw U.S., European, and Saudi financing, coupled with Indian financing and implementation capacity, particularly in ports. He says the United States International Development Finance Corporation funding for Adani Ports-owned Colombo deepwater container terminal could be a template for Haifa.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Partial closure

It is grossly unjust to close medical services at government hospitals for the duration of the idol consecration ceremony at Ayodhya (January 21). The faithful and the devout could always have been allowed to take short leave to watch the ceremony, without closing down the facility itself. Moreover, this sudden and arbitrary closure puts a spanner not only in the schedules of institutions but also creates trouble to the plans individuals may have made in advance. It is noteworthy that the much vaunted motto of 'work is worship' is being violated by the government itself in the name of ritualism.

Firoz Ahmad,
New Delhi

The declaration of half a day's closure of government offices and public sector banks to enable employees to participate in the 'Ram Lalla Pran-Pratishtha' celebrations/ceremony will affect the country's secular fabric. Declaring leave for the celebrations of a particular community is not in good taste and underscores a preferential and partial attitude.
If employees are keen to attend the event, let them apply for leave and go. In the event of the inauguration of the mosque in Ayodhya, will the government declare half a day's closure of its offices? Religious ceremonies should not be mixed with politics.

D. Sethuraman,
Chennai

Resonated

The article, "How to deal with memory loss" ('Science' page, January 21), is sure to have caught the attention of senior citizens like me. The writer has visualised the sufferings of senior citizens.

A. Kaja Nazimudeen,
Eruvadi, Tirunelveli, Tamil Nadu

Better use of technology needs free access

Madhav Chavan
is a co-founder of Pratham

Data from the Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) 2023 report, that was released recently, confirms that the story of widening access to smartphones across the country continues. The results show that 92% of the 14-18 year olds who were surveyed reported knowing how to use a smartphone. What does this access mean in terms of education or learning?

First, although over 90% of boys and girls reported knowing how to use a smartphone, almost half of them, or 44% of the boys, owned their own smartphone. Among girls, only 20% owned one. The difference in ownership of devices, gender-based or otherwise, can limit what these devices can be used for and can affect some abilities but not others. For example, the ability to browse for information is equal among either boys or girls, regardless of whether they own the device or simply have access to one at home. Finding a YouTube video, which also falls under the category of browsing, is equally easy among boys who own or do not own their phones. But the skill of finding a video and sharing it depends on ownership of the device.

The examples above describe tasks that the youth who were surveyed did on a smartphone (their own, a household member's, or a neighbour's) in the presence of the ASER survey team. Other examples of how phone ownership makes a difference are visible in the youths' self-reported use of smartphones. For example, over 90% of those surveyed reported having used social media in the week prior to the survey, but the proportion of those who were familiar with safety features (such as changing a password or blocking a profile) was largely dependent on ownership.

In short, these results suggest that while access to a common smartphone can be described as basic or superficial, owning a smart device is necessary for deeper access to information and services. Smartphone skills, like all other skills, need motivation combined with the opportunity to learn. Entertainment is a great motivator. Products such as WhatsApp and YouTube have clearly motivated and helped youngsters to learn to use the new technology without a gender bias. However, in cases of certain online services and commercial activities, girls seem to show less participation than boys. This may have less to do with barriers of technology and more to do with social obstacles. Where there are no social barriers such as using the devices for school-related work, ownership of devices and gender make only a small difference: nearly 70% of youth, boys and girls, both report having used phones for studies at least once in the reference week. ASER 2023 cannot say if this has made an impact on the learning of school subjects.

Once technology, any technology, is in the hands of motivated users without constraints, they learn to use it. Motivation to use and learn new technology came during the COVID-19 pandemic. Without being taught, huge populations adopted the new technology and its applications that were useful and user-friendly. But, even before the big push of the pandemic, we saw an example on a fairly large scale of how children pick up skills without being taught.

Data from the recently released Annual Status of Education Report supports the point that once technology is in the hands of motivated users without constraints, they will learn to use it

An earlier experiment

In 2017, in an early Pratham experiment with integrating digital technology into education, small groups of 11- to 14 year olds were each given a tablet to share. Their mothers were given responsibility for its safe-keeping, with the assurance that there would be no penalty for loss or damage. Nearly 3,000 tablets were distributed in about 400 villages in Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, and Rajasthan. Each tablet had a password to ensure that no external content was imported. Within two weeks we discovered that passwords in half the tablets spread over villages in all three States had been changed, and the children were having a laugh at the expense of the Pratham staff. In those days it was unlikely that the children had prior exposure to devices such as tablets and smartphones in the villages. But obviously some people knew how, and the knowhow spread like wildfire, motivated by the opportunity to play mischief. Needless to say, we removed passwords in all the tablets, and the groups of children were made responsible for protection of the content. Not surprisingly, this worked very well although mistakes were made every now and then. In the above experiment, supported by the Sarva Mangal Family Trust and Google.org, ownership of the tablet was with the children by rotation and they were free to play with the device. Almost similar to the 'Hole in the Wall' project of Professor Sugata Mitra, children learned on their own and from each other. Pratham staff helped but did not teach. It is not clear if this impacted 'progress' in school subjects but boys and girls became much more comfortable with using technology.

There were different phases of this experiment including one where children started filming, editing, sharing and uploading their own videos on given themes or topics. In one phase almost half of the 4,394 group leaders were girls (49%). In other words, girls use the devices equally well as boys when they are given equal and unfettered access to the devices. In contrast, when their access is constrained, their learning also is likely to be affected negatively. The ASER 2023 reports a lower ability of girls to perform tasks such as accessing services, or making payments, or being safe on the Internet. This is strongly related to constraints in using the devices due to absence of ownership.

Free bicycles gave a boost to the enrolment of girls in secondary schools. Perhaps, free smartphones with Internet access are round the corner?

Visiting Kerala with a strategy in mind

The BJP hopes the Prime Minister's frequent visits will fetch it political dividends

STATE OF PLAY

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Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent visits to Kerala and his engagement with Christian community leaders have activated political discussions about the Bharatiya Janata Party's strategy to win seats in the Lok Sabha, from Kerala, where the party has not been successful so far.

Last week, Mr. Modi, went on a two-day visit to the State, led a lively roadshow in Kochi during the evening and visited the Sree Krishna temple at Guruvayur the following day. He attended the wedding ceremony of a daughter of actor-politician Suresh Gopi, a potential candidate of the BJP in the Thrissur Lok Sabha constituency. He also visited the Thriprayar Sree Ramaswami temple in Nattika, Thrissur. Later, he inaugurated projects worth ₹4,000 crore in Kochi, addressed a gathering of BJP booth-level leaders, and met several others before returning to Delhi.

His visit was the second time in a fortnight. Just two weeks earlier, he had led a huge roadshow and subsequently addressed the "Sthreesakthi Modikkoppam (Empower Women With Modi") in Thrissur. Throughout his speech, he underscored the BJP government's commitment to women's empowerment at the national level and presented it as a tangible embodiment of "Modi's guarantee". Apparently, Mr. Modi strategically orchestrated his Kerala visits, transforming them into a prelude to the BJP's Lok Sabha election campaign in the State. The party's central leadership, fuelled by an intense desire to shatter the

bipolar political paradigm in Kerala since it came to power at the Centre in 2014, now places its bet on Mr. Modi's nationwide popularity. The leadership sees him as a potential game-changer capable of disrupting the jinx of the bipolar coalition system that has held sway in Kerala.

For many years, the Kerala BJP leadership has focused only on the Hindu electorate, amid facing allegations of transferring votes to the Congress party to oust the CPI (M)-led Left Democratic Front whenever it was in power. Thus, the BJP vote share oscillated between 4%-8% in the past. But since 2014, the BJP's vote share has been increasing in every other poll.

The strategy adopted

Political analysts say that Mr. Modi has combined a strategy of development, spirituality, and Hindutva to woo the electorate. His temple visits are carefully planned and executed without acting impulsively. He has realised the importance of temples and their influence on Hindu voters in Kerala after the Supreme Court judgment declared the custom of prohibiting women in their 'menstruating years' at Sabarimala unconstitutional.

Election fever has already gripped the Thrissur constituency after his visit. Besides, Mr. Modi's visit to the Sree Ramaswami temple of Triprayar in Nattika, was a connect ahead of the Ram Mandir consecration in Ayodhya, but there could be more to it than meets the eye.

In Nattika, one of the seven Assembly segments in Thrissur, all three main candidates – sitting MP and Congress leader T.N. Prathapan, Rajaji Mathew Thomas of the CPI and Mr. Gopi as the BJP's nominee – secured between 48,000 to 52,000 votes in the 2019 Lok Sabha poll. Mr. Prathapan is from Nattika and had represented this segment twice.

This apart, Mr. Modi hosted over 100 Christian leaders from all denominations in Delhi on Christmas last year. The outreach programme was not new as Mr. Modi had met leading Church leaders during his visit to Kerala in April 2023.

During his recent visit, Mr. Modi also briefly met T.J. Joseph, the former professor of Newman College at Thodupuzha in Idukki district, whose hand was chopped off in 2010, by a group of activists from the now-banned Popular Front of India. Perhaps this was also intended to send a message to Christian voters.

Unlike before, meeting Mr. Modi is no longer taboo for anyone, as was evident when Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan received him and saw him off at the airport. Also, Church leaders have realised that Mr. Modi is likely to retain power in the 2024 Lok Sabha election. For the BJP, like another mainstream party in Kerala, the general election this year serve as a rehearsal for the 2026 Assembly elections. Undoubtedly, Mr. Modi, a two-term Prime Minister, exerts influence and is a factor in Kerala politics. But the real intrigue lies in whether he can choreograph a BJP Victory that goes beyond mere participation and truly crosses the finish line.

India among nations overusing "Watch" group antibiotics

Resistance among Indian patients to certain types of antibiotics is among the highest in the world

DATA POINT

Rebecca Rose Varghese and Vignesh Radhakrishnan

In the Data Point published last week ("Over 38% patients on more than one antibiotic", January 17), results from a government survey showed that an overwhelming number of inpatients are prescribed antibiotics by hospitals across India. Findings also showed that many patients were on more than one antibiotic. Further, the data showed that over 55% of such antibiotic prescriptions belonged to the "Watch" group as classified by the World Health Organization (WHO), i.e., medicines reserved for only severe infections.

Data show that resistance among Indian patients to certain types of antibiotics is among the highest in the world. In India, for many antibiotic-bacterium combinations, over 75% of infections were from resistant bacteria. For instance, in the ceftriaxone antibiotic-Klebsiella pneumoniae bacteria combination, over 87.4% of infections were from resistant bacteria as shown in **Table 1**. **Table 1** also lists the broader antibiotic group these drugs belong to and the best and the worst countries in terms of resistance to various antibiotic-bacterium combinations. For instance, the ceftriaxone antibiotic belongs to the group called third-generation cephalosporins.

It is telling that the resistance proportion among Indian patients was among the highest for drugs in the third generation cephalosporins group, as can be seen in Table 1. As noted in the Data Point last week, over 33% of antibiotic prescriptions in India – the highest among all types – that featured in the government survey in 2021-22, were also from the third generation cephalosporins group, which include antibiotics such as ceftriaxone, ceftazidime and cefotaxime. So, the most used antibiotic is also the most resisted.

There is also a clear divide between countries with high resistance and low resistance. As shown in **Table 1**, responsible antibiotic usage has resulted in low antibiotic resistance among developed countries such as Norway, Finland, Netherlands and the U.K.. In contrast, along with India, patients in Russia, Egypt and Pakistan have developed high antibiotic resistance.

Chart 2 explains this relationship further. **Chart 2** shows the consumption (%) of "Watch" group antibiotics among AWaRe categories in select countries as of 2015-17. AWaRe was developed by WHO based on the impact of different antibiotics on antimicrobial resistance so that they can be used appropriately. It broadly categorises antibiotics into "Access", "Watch", and "Reserve". The "Access" group is the most advised as it minimises the potential for resistance. "Watch" group antibiotics are only for specific and limited use, and result in increased antibiotic resistance. The "reserve" group should only be used in life-threatening conditions. According to WHO, 60% of total antibiotic consumption in a country should be from the "Access" group. It is a worry that in India, the opposite is true. About 59% of total antibiotic consumption in the country in 2022 was from the "Watch" group. This share went up to 64% during the pandemic years. **Chart 2** shows the "Watch" group share as of 2015-17, a year for which comparison data with other countries was available. Clearly, India stood out that year, with 56% of all antibiotics that were prescribed from the "Watch" group. Russia was a distant second. On the other hand, Norway, Finland, Netherlands and the U.K. – which featured among nations with low antimicrobial resistance – also had low "Watch" group proportion in consumption. "Watch" group antibiotics formed less than 20% of the total consumption in these countries.

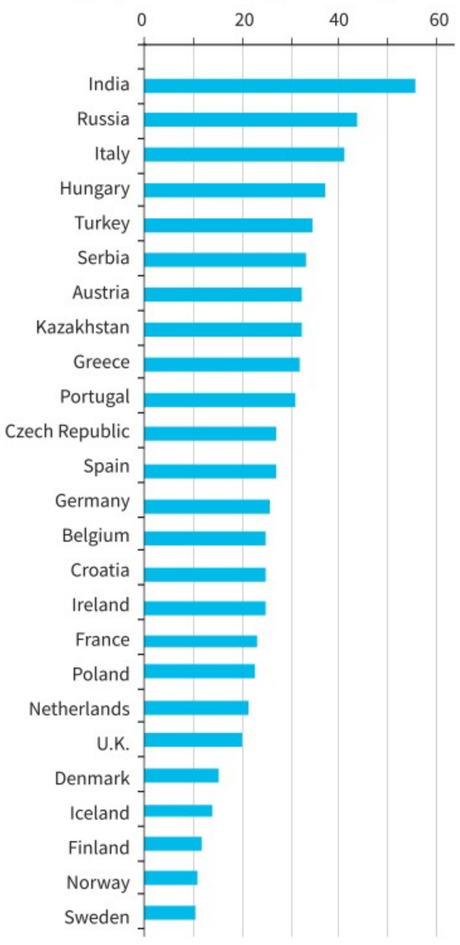
Too much of a good thing

The data for the table and chart were sourced from the report titled, 'WHO Report on Surveillance of Antibiotic Consumption' and WHO's Global AMR data

Table 1 : The table lists antibiotic-bacterium combination, the category these drugs belong to, and nations with high and low resistance

Pathogen name	Antibiotic	Category	Resistance %	High resistance	Low resistance
K. pneumoniae	Ceftriaxone	3rd gen. cephalosporines	87.4	Egypt 96%	Switzerland 5%
E. coli	Ceftriaxone	3rd gen. cephalosporines	78.8	Pakistan 72%	U.K. 10%
Acinetobacter spp.	Imipenem	Carbapenem	78.1	Oman 97%	Japan 0.8%
K. pneumoniae	Ceftazidime	3rd gen. cephalosporines	78.0	Egypt 94%	Switzerland 5%
Acinetobacter spp.	Meropenem	Carbapenem	77.9	Russia 93%	Japan 0.9%
E. coli	Cefotaxime	3rd gen. cephalosporines	76.7	Oman 79%	Norway 4%
K. pneumoniae	Cefotaxime	3rd gen. cephalosporines	76.1	Egypt 96%	Switzerland 5%
E. coli	Ceftazidime	3rd gen. cephalosporines	76.0	Nepal 81%	Norway 3%
K. pneumoniae	Cefepime	4th gen. cephalosporines	74.4	Oman 94%	Switzerland 3%
E. coli	Ciprofloxacin	Fluoroquinolones	70.5	Pakistan 71%	Norway 8%
Acinetobacter spp.	Amikacin	Aminoglycosides	68.4	Russia 92%	Japan 0.7%
S. aureus	Methicillin	Beta-Lactam	64.7	Pakistan 69%	Netherlands 2%
E. coli	Co-trimoxazole	-	63.0	Pakistan 67%	Finland 20%
E. coli	Cefepime	4th gen. cephalosporines	62.7	Oman 93%	Switzerland 4%
K. pneumoniae	Co-trimoxazole	-	60.1	Uganda 82%	Switzerland 9%
K. pneumoniae	Ciprofloxacin	Fluoroquinolones	58.3	Russia 89%	Japan 5%
K. pneumoniae	Ertapenem	Carbapenem	53.2	Oman 74%	U.K. 1%

Chart 2 : The chart shows the consumption (%) of "Watch" group antibiotics among AWaRe categories



FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO JANUARY 22, 1974

Gold Price Sky-rockets Following Floating of Franc

PARIS, Jan. 21.
The price of gold sky-rocketed to $ 158 an ounce here to-day following the floating of the franc by France over the week-end. The franc itself dipped in value by about five per cent.
The atmosphere of instability and uncertainty resulting from France's abrupt week-end decision to float the franc sent dealers scurrying for cover in gold, monetary experts said.
The price of the 12.5 kilo gold bar soared to an all-time high equivalent level of $158 an ounce up from $130 on Friday.
The ailing British pound to-day plunged three cents to its lowest level in history in the wake of French action.
The pound, worth $2.50 a year ago, plummeted to less than $2.16 when markets opened. Later, bankers said that the Bank of England stepped in to shore it up by selling off dollars and the pound recovered a little to $2.1655. In London gold rose to an all-time record of $141.75 per ounce – a nine per cent increase over the previous high recorded on Friday – at the morning fixing to-day following the floating of the franc. The U.S. dollar also rose, with dealers quoting 3.4150 4300 Swiss franc at the opening against 3.3700 50 at the close on Friday. – Reuter, UPI, AFP and AP.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JANUARY 22, 1924

South Africa.

NEW GOVERNOR GENERAL.
INDIAN ADDRESS.
(Reuters's Special Service.)
CAPE TOWN, Jan. 21.
A magnificent welcome was given to the Earl of Athlone, the new Governor-General, who, accompanied by his wife and family, arrived here in perfect summer weather this morning. The city was gaily bedagged and there was a brilliant welcome at the City Hall, where there was a most representative gathering of the whole of South Africa, which included many Indians. The Cape British Indian Union presented an address declaring that Indians everywhere cherished feelings of profound gratitude to the Royal Family for the kindliness and wisdom with which Queen Victoria and King Edward ruled over millions of Indians. The address spoke appreciatively of the King Emperor's anxiety for the welfare of Indians and was convinced that the Earl of Athlone would share this regarding Indian subjects in South Africa.

From Page One

PM, priests to lead ceremonies today

No uninvited individual is allowed around the vicinity of the temple, while aerial and artificial intelligence surveillance has been deployed to ensure the safety of the guests and the success of the mega event. Arrangements have been made to deal with any health emergency, especially in view of the biting cold.

The new 51-inch Ram Lalla idol, which was placed in the *sanctum sanctorum* last Thursday, was bathed on Sunday with 114 pitchers filled with *aushadhiyukt* (medicated) and sacred water brought from various pilgrimage sites. The preparatory rituals in the run-up to the ceremony were conducted by 121 priests, with the eminent priest Ganeshwar Shastri Dravid coordinating and overseeing the proceedings of the *Anushthan* (rituals). Lakshmikant Dixit of Kashi is the main priest.

Starting at 10 a.m. on Monday, *Mangal Dhvani* (auspicious sound) will play at the temple until the ceremony is ready to begin, with artists playing 25 traditional and rare musical instruments from different States. "In Indian culture, *Mangal Dhvani* is composed to bring joy and to mark auspiciousness of an occasion and produced before the deity. The consecration ceremony is a proud moment for every Indian, and to mark this grand occasion, traditional musical instruments from various regions and States of India will be played to produce *Mangal Dhvani* in front of Shri Ram Lalla," said Champat Rai, the general secretary of the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust.

Guest list

U.P. Governor Anandiben Patel, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh chief Mohan Bhagwat will attend the ceremony, along with a guest list of prominent politicians, leading industrialists, top film stars, sportspersons, diplomats, judges, priests, and activists prominent in the Ram Temple movement. Almost all Opposition political leaders invited to the ceremony have declined to attend.

As part of the preparations, the Trust readied *Mahaprasad* to be distributed to the guests after the *pran pratistha*, along with meals prepared with desi ghee to be served on the temple premises.

(With PTI inputs)

A Congress PM would have ended Manipur conflict: Rahul

Modi is not going to Manipur and ordering the Army to end the conflict as BJP 'does not want the fire doused', alleges Congress; Assam monastery asks Rahul Gandhi to reschedule his visit to afternoon due to 'rush of devotees' today

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

A Prime Minister from the Congress would have stopped the ethnic conflict in Manipur soon after it started last May, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said on Sunday.

Addressing a rally as part of his Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra in Nagaon district of central Assam, he added that Prime Minister Narendra Modi could also have brought the situation in Manipur under control quickly if the Bharatiya Janata Party had wished to do so.

"Our Prime Minister is yet to go to Manipur, which has been burning for several months now. A Congress Prime Minister would have gone there in three days and the flame there would have been doused on the fourth day," Mr. Gandhi said. "If the Prime Minister orders, the Army can stop the violence. He does not go there [Manipur] and order the Army to stop the *tamasha* because the BJP does not want the fire doused," he said.

The yatra began in Manipur on January 14 and is now passing through central Assam, but has been forced to change its plans for Monday. Though Mr. Gandhi and his entourage were slated to pay their obeisance at Assam's most revered monastery, the Batadrava Than, in the morning, they have been asked to reschedule as there will be a "rush of devotees" to mark the *Pran Pratishtha* of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya.

Reaching out: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi with party president Mallikarjun Kharge during a public meeting in Nagaon district of Assam on Sunday. PTI

'Visit after 3 p.m.'

The *Batadrava Than Parichalana Samiti* (management committee) has written to local Congress MLA Sibamoni Bora, urging her to tell Mr. Gandhi to visit the monastery after 3 p.m. instead of the originally scheduled 8 a.m.

Batadrava is the birthplace of the 15th century saint-reformer Srimanta Sankaradeva, who propounded a form of Vaishnavism that treats all communities as one.

"The Assam government knew about our itinerary before the yatra started. We understand why the Chief Minister [Himanta Biswa Sarma] has tried to stop Rahul*ji* from going to the Gauhati Press Club on an invitation, but a place of worship and spiritualism should have been above politics," Congress leader Jairam Ramesh said.

"We thought it would have been *anyay* (unjust) not to pay obeisance to Srimanta Sankaradeva at his place of birth for 10 to 15 minutes when we are in the Nagaon district," he added. Mr. Ramesh said he has the invitation letter from the Gauhati Press Club but would rather not make it public lest the presspersons who invited Mr. Gandhi for an interaction were "unnecessarily" targeted by the BJP-led Assam government.

The Chief Minister told presspersons that Mr. Gandhi was free to attend any press club programme but the local administration would lodge a complaint against him for causing inconvenience to the people in a busy part of Guwahati.

A key functionary of the press club said that the invitation to Mr. Gandhi was in keeping with a policy of inviting leaders, academics, celebrities, sportspersons, and achievers to the Gauhati Press Club for periodic interactions. "The date was not fixed and Congress did not commit but got back by saying they did not get permission to take the route to the press club," he said.

A group of youth assaulted Assam Congress president Bhupen Kumar Borah when the yatra reached Jumugurihat in the Sonitpur district on Sunday. A photo of him with a bleeding nose went viral on social media.

Addressing the Nagaon rally, Mr. Gandhi said that he had no option of reaching out to people other than embarking upon a yatra. "The BJP is controlling most of the media houses, which show only what the party or its leaders want," he said. He took a jab at Mr. Sarma too, saying that the people know him as the "most corrupt" CM in the country. Meanwhile, Mr. Sarma directed the Assam police to probe an alleged attack on Mr. Ramesh's vehicle on Sunday.

Assam varsity told to take action against teacher who criticised CM

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said on Sunday that he had asked the Vice-Chancellor of Gauhati University to initiate disciplinary proceedings against Akhil Ranjan Dutta, the head of the university's Department of Political Science.

The action has been sought for criticising the Chief Minister for alleged derogatory remarks about scholar Hiren Gohain. "I have directed the Gauhati University Vice-Chancellor to initiate disciplinary proceedings against the professor. As a faculty member, he frequently criticises the Chief Minister, which is unacceptable," Mr. Sarma told presspersons on Sunday.

"There are codes of conduct that must be adhered to. A university professor should express his thoughts within limitations," he said, adding that legislation would be introduced in the upcoming Assembly session for applying Civil Service Conduct Rules to professors critical of the Chief Minister. He defended his "assessment" of Mr. Gohain for having "insulted" Bhupen Hazarika, a cultural icon.

Students condemned the Chief Minister for targeting Professor Dutta.

Biren seeks meet with Prime Minister

"This is not the time for politicking. All political parties have joined hands to chalk out the next strategy to ensure peace in the State," Nimaichand Luwang, the chief spokesperson of the Janata Dal (United) said.

Last year, Mr. Singh had come out of his official residence to reportedly submit his resignation to Governor Anusuiya Uikey. Scores of women who had converged near the CM's Office snatched the resignation letter and tore it up, saying that the time was not ripe for him to quit.

The day also saw Mr. Singh visiting the houses of four civilians killed in the Bishnupur district recently. Announcing a compensation of ₹10 lakh for each, he denied accusations that his government was going soft on tribal extremists. "The killers of Chingtham Anand, the SDPO [Sub-Divisional Police Officer] of Moreh, have been arrested. But if the Central forces fail to protect the lives and properties of the people of Manipur, they should go back," he said.

Meanwhile, a police report said some armed miscreants opened fire at a Meitei village in Jiribam adjoining southern Assam's Cachar district.

Row over birth centenary celebrations of former Bihar CM in Patna intensifies

Amit Bhelari
PATNA

Both the ruling and Opposition parties in Bihar are trying to win EBC votes

The BJP and the Janata Dal (U) are at loggerheads over the allocation of the Miller High School ground in Patna for the celebration of the birth centenary of former Bihar Chief Minister Karpoori Thakur, who was known for championing the cause of the Backward Classes, on January 24.

The BJP said that the ground had been reserved by the party, but the State government allocated it to the JD(U). State BJP chief Samrat Choudhary called it an act of hooliganism and a murder of democracy. He said that if the ground was not given to the BJP, it would conduct its programmes outside the JD(U) and Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) offices.

Ahead of the Lok Sabha election, both the ruling and Opposition parties are trying to win over the Extremely Backward Classes, who play a crucial role in the electoral politics of the State. The EBCs form the biggest social group in the State, as per the caste-based survey conducted last year.

The JD(U) is celebrating the birth centenary of the socialist stalwart, popularly known as the *Jannayak* or people's leader, on a grand scale. On January 24, it will organise a rally at Patna's Veterinary College ground but the arrangements for the party workers to stay overnight have been made at the Miller High School ground. On the same day, alliance partner RJD is celebrating the birth centenary at the Sri Krishna Memorial Hall in Patna.

Addressing a press conference, Mr. Choudhary said, "If the government indulges in hooliganism after ruling for 18 years, then what would be a bigger misfortune than this. We know that such things are happening after JD(U) came under the influence of the RJD."

He said that the BJP had applied for booking the ground in November, while the JD(U) did so in December. He said the party had received the no-objection certificate and the Education Department had directed the District Magistrate to reserve the ground for the BJP.

ED holds searches in two States in illegal immigration case

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) conducted searches at 22 locations in two States in connection with an alleged illegal immigration case.

The searches were carried out in Delhi, Ahmedabad, Surat, and Mehsana.

The agency searched premises linked to the alleged key conspirators named in the case – Bharatbhai Patel, Charanjit Singh, and others.

Patel was also allegedly involved in the 2022 Dingucha case, in which a family of four froze to death while attempting to illegally enter the U.S. via Canada, said the agency.

The ED investigation is based on two first information reports filed by the Gujarat Police under the Indian Penal Code and the Passports Act for the involvement of the accused in sending Indian citizens abroad illegally since 2015. "During the search operation, the ED seized about ₹1.5 crore in cash and ₹21 lakh in foreign currencies, apart from digital and other evidence," it said.

'Going to a temple is a matter of one's own faith'

People need not be invited to a 'temple' and those who worship Lord Ram are not limited by political boundaries, says Congress leader Sachin Pilot; he also emphasises that while regional parties have a crucial role to play in the battle against the BJP in the upcoming Lok Sabha election, only the Congress can take on it at 'pan-India' level

INTERVIEW

Sachin Pilot

Sobhana K. Nair

One must not mix religion and politics, and Lord Ram is not an "event", said senior Congress leader and former Rajasthan Deputy Chief Minister Sachin Pilot. He also spoke about the Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra, the Congress's relevance in the Hindi heartland, and the recent exit of Milind Deora from the party. Excerpts:

In Assam, the Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra is facing disruptions. You are not allowed inside Guwahati, your leaders have been attacked and posters vandalised. What does it signal?

It is most unfortunate. A yatra that is actually seeking to send the message of peace, harmony, and unity is under attack by the ruling dispensation in Assam. This shows two things. One, fear of the massive response the yatra has received; second, it shows a lot of insecurity. The Congress party, its leader Rahul Gandhi, or any of us won't be deterred by this act of hooliganism. Because if this is the reaction, then we must be doing something right.

The Congress is not attending the Ram Temple consecration ceremony. How do you battle the perception of the party being "anti-Hindu"?

One must not mix religion and politics. Lord Ram is not an event. Those who worship him are not limited by the political boundaries of India. He is omnipresent. We should not allow any one to politicise something that is so sacrosanct and deeply entrenched in our value system and culture. And the more important question is who is to invite and what is the invite for? It is unheard of that people are invited to go to a temple.

Going to a temple is a matter of my own faith. The Shankaracharyas are not going because of their own reasons. This is a temple for everyone, open to worship, and people will go according to their faith, not at a time chosen by someone. It is a futile exercise to try and limit it to an invitee, an invitation, and an event.

Recently, your friend Milind Deora quit the party. After his exit, once again, a photograph of five leaders namely Mr. Deora, Jyotiraditya Scindia, Jitin Prasada, R.P.N. Singh and you has gone viral on social media. Of the five, four have left the Congress, prompting people to ask when is Mr. Pilot quitting? Are you dissatisfied with the party?

Everyone is free to make their ideological choice. Whether the decision was right or wrong is for voters to decide. I believe I stand for something, I believe that I have never shied away from challenges. I think one must dig in their heels and fight the good fight. Because this country needs a robust Opposition. And more so, because it's a difficult time for our country and our democracy, with institutions nurtured over 70 years being delegitimised with surgical precision.

What went wrong in Rajasthan?

Despite all our efforts we weren't able to break the three-decade cycle of 'once BJP, once Congress'. We did win 69 seats and our vote share didn't drop. But the fact is that we didn't win the election. We had a discussion in Delhi about our shortcomings. I personally believe that if we had actually changed the sitting members of Assembly and given new people a chance the results could have been different.

Not just Rajasthan, you lost Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh. Is the Congress really relevant in the Hindi heartland?

I think Chhattisgarh was absolutely unexpected, the government had done a good job, schemes were well-received, people were excited, workers were enthused. We are absolutely relevant in the Hindi heartland. One or two losses in a few States cannot dictate the future of the Congress party. With due regard to all our alliance partners, they have a role to play, very significant at that. But pan-India it is only the Congress that can take on and challenge the BJP.

Considering the hiccups in Punjab, West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh in seat-sharing talks, do you believe, INDIA parties will be able to have a seat-sharing arrangement in place ahead of the general election?

Seat sharing is a challenging task. All parties, including the Congress, understand that the larger objective at hand is not to score points but to defeat the NDA. A united Opposition is exactly what the BJP does not want. INDIA leaders will do the right thing and seat sharing will happen in the right spirit.

Bilkis Bano case: all 11 convicts surrender

Press Trust of India
GODHRA

All 11 convicts in the Bilkis Bano case surrendered late on Sunday night at Godhra sub-jail in Gujarat's Panchmahal district in keeping with the deadline imposed by the Supreme Court.

"All 11 convicts have surrendered before jail authorities late Sunday night," said local Crime Branch Inspector N.L. Desai.

The SC had on January 8 annulled the remission the Gujarat government granted to the 11 convicts in the high-profile case while slamming the State for abusing its discretion. It ordered the convicts, who were released prematurely on Independence Day in 2022, to go back to jail within two weeks.

The top court had a couple of days ago rejected pleas of the convicts for grant of more time to surrender.

Ahead of consecration, PM finishes T.N. temple visits

Modi prays at Kothandaramaswamy Temple, visits Arichalmunai point; in run-up to Ram Temple event, he had said that he would be visiting key temples associated with Lord Ram across country

L. Srikrishna
RAMESWARAM

Holy expedition: Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the Arichalmunai point in Dhanushkodi on Sunday. It is said to be the place from where the Ram Setu was built. ANI

A day ahead of the Ram Temple inauguration in Ayodhya on Monday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi ended his spiritual tour of Tamil Nadu after visiting the Sri Kothandaramaswamy Temple and Arichalmunai point in Dhanushkodi, situated at the tip of the Indian mainland on Sunday.

In the run-up to the *Pran Pratishtha* ceremony of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya, the Prime Minister had announced that he would be visiting important shrines associated with Lord Rama across the country. Before commencing his tour of Tamil Nadu, he had visited temples in Andhra Pradesh and Kerala.

The Prime Minister, who arrived in Chennai on Friday, had inaugurated the opening ceremony of the Khelo India Youth Games, 2023 in the city. After an overnight stay at the Raj Bhavan, he left for Srirangam, where he visited the Sri Ranganathaswamy Temple.

He arrived in Rameswaram on Saturday afternoon and offered prayers at the Sri Ramanathaswami Temple. After spending the night at the Ramakrishna Math here, he proceeded to the Arichalmunai point in Dhanushkodi, bound by the Palk Bay in the north and the Gulf of Mannar in the south. He offered flowers and performed puja to a *Shivalinga* in Arichalmunai.

Walk on the beach

Mr. Modi also took a short walk on the beach while soaking in the view of the sea.

The Prime Minister left Rameswaram by helicopter to the Madurai airport at 11.45 a.m. and on arrival, he boarded a special aircraft to New Delhi, officials said.

A press release said that the Kothandaramaswamy Temple is believed to be the place where Vibhishana, the younger brother of King Ravana, first met Sri Rama and sought refuge. Some legends also state that this was the place where Lord Rama conducted the coronation of Vibhishana as the King of Lanka, before returning to Ayodhya.

The Prime Minister posted on X (formerly Twitter), "Prayed at the iconic Kothandaramaswamy Temple. Felt extremely blessed."

A group of Congress workers in Rameswaram staged a black flag demonstration with placards reading "Go Back Modi" and "Anti-Fishermen Modi", among others. They shouted slogans and also released black balloons before being arrested.

Start of a new cycle in resurgence of our nation: Murmu

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Droupadi Murmu

On the eve of the inauguration of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya, President Droupadi Murmu, in a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday, said the celebratory atmosphere across the country was an "uninhibited expression of the eternal soul of India".

"As you [Mr. Modi] prepare yourself to go for *Pran Pratishtha* of Prabhu Shri Ram's *murti* (idol) at the new temple built at his birthplace in Ayodhya, I can only contemplate the unique civilisational journey that will be accomplished with each step taken by you in the hallowed precincts," Ms. Murmu wrote.

Referring to the 11-day rigorous *anushthan* that the Prime Minister has undertaken, she said it was not only a sacred ritual but also a supreme spiritual act of sacrifice and submission to Lord Ram. Sending heartfelt wishes, the President said, "The nationwide celebratory atmosphere around the inauguration of the grand temple of Prabhu Shri Ram at Ayodhya Dham is an uninhibited expression of the eternal soul of India. We all are fortunate to witness the commencement of a new cycle in resurgence of our nation."

The temple, Ms. Murmu said, will bring closer to people the universal values that Lord Rama represents such as courage, compassion, and constant focus on duty.

"Prabhu Shri Ram signifies the best aspects of our cultural and spiritual heritage. Above all, he represents the good which is in constant battle with evil. His life and principles have influenced many episodes of our history and inspired nation builders," she said.

The President said Mahatma Gandhi derived strength from *Ramanama* till his last breath and quoted him as saying: "Though my reason and heart long ago realised the highest attribute and name of God as truth, I recognise truth by the name of Rama. In the darkest hour of my trial, that one name has saved me and is still saving me."

INBRIEF

ISRO shares satellite image of Ram Temple in Ayodhya

Ahead of the consecration ceremony, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has shared a glimpse of how the temple looks from space. The agency's Hyderabad-based National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC) has processed an image taken on December 16 from Cartosat, an Indian remote sensing satellite, which was shared by the ISRO. Apart from the temple, the image also shows the Sarayu river, Dashrath Mahal, and the Ayodhya Railway Station. Cartosat satellites are part of a series of earth-observation satellites launched by the ISRO in the past two decades.

CJI urged not to pass adverse orders over lawyers' absence

Supreme Court Bar Association President Adish C. Aggarwala on Sunday requested Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud that no adverse orders be passed over non-appearance of lawyers in cases listed in the court on Monday. In a letter, he said simultaneous ceremonies will take place in temples throughout the world. "Your lordship is undoubtedly aware of the significance of this celebration. While acknowledging the importance of maintaining an adequate number of working days, we are specifically requesting that no adverse orders be passed in any case due to the absence of anyone," the letter said. PTI

Uddhav gets invitation by Speed Post for temple event

Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Uddhav Thackeray received an invitation for Monday's consecration ceremony through Speed Post. Sena leader Sanjay Raut flayed the government's treatment of the Thackeray family. Dismissing Mr. Raut's claims, Maharashtra Minister Uday Samant said that Speed Post was chosen for a quicker delivery. Mr. Raut expressed discontent, accusing the government of worshipping Lord Ram while ruling like Ravan. "All film stars are invited but the Thackeray family closely associated with movement is treated in such a manner," he said.

Ram Temple designed to last a thousand years, says L&T

Larsen & Toubro (L&T) on Sunday said that it had designed and built the Ram Temple in Ayodhya, establishing a new milestone in architectural grandeur. It stands within a 70-acre complex, with its design rooted in the ancient Nagara style of architecture, the firm said. S.N. Subrahmanyan, chairman and managing director, L&T, said the temple is a "monumental testament to engineering excellence". "This marvel of engineering stands as a symbol of endurance designed and constructed to last a thousand years," he added.

All clinical services open today: AIIMS

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Delhi on Sunday said all clinical services, including the outpatient department, would remain open on Monday.

The clarification came a day after it said the institution would remain closed for half day in view of the consecration ceremony at the Ram Temple.

"The Government of India has declared Monday, January 22, 2024, a half day closing till 14.30 hrs, as Ram Lalla *Pran Pratishtha* at Ayodhya will be celebrated across India. It is notified for information of all the employees that the institute will remain half day closed till 14.30 hrs on January 22, 2024. All Chiefs of Centres, Heads of the Departments, Units and Branch Officers are requested to bring this to the notice of all staff working under them," it said on Saturday.

"However, since AIIMS New Delhi is on high alert for a period of one month till February 2, 2024 all critical clinical services shall remain functional," it added. The OPD at Lady Hardinge Medical College and Safdarjung Hospital will remain functional from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Government-funded science institutes contributed to Ram Temple: Minister

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Jitendra Singh

Several institutes which come under the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and the Department of Science and Technology (DST) have been closely involved in various aspects of the construction of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya, Science and Technology Minister Jitendra Singh said on Sunday, enumerating the contributions of the institutions.

The Indian Institutes of Technology and the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) also gave inputs, he said in a press statement.

The CSIR-Central Building Research Institute in Roorkee "majorly contributed towards the structural design of the main temple, designing *surya tilak* mechanism, design-vetting of temple foundation, and monitoring the structural health of the main temple", Mr. Singh said. The *surya tilak* refers to a ray of sunlight made to fall on the idol's forehead on a designated day – in this case, Ram Navami, the birthday of Lord Ram that usually falls in March or April.

The DST-Indian Institute of Astrophysics, Bengaluru provided "technical support" to triangulate the sun rays and the idol's position for the *surya tilak*.

"Gear box and reflective mirrors/lenses have been arranged such that sun rays will be deflected to *Garbha Griha* (*sanctum sanctorum*) using well-known principles of tracking sun's path," he said.

Another CSIR institute made "tulips bloom" for the ceremony. "The Institute of Himalayan Bioresource Technology, Palampur has recently developed an indigenous technology through which tulip could be made available throughout the year, without waiting for its season," Mr. Singh said.

The CSIR-National Geophysical Research Institute, Hyderabad gave significant inputs on the design of the temple's foundation and seismic safety.

The temple was designed to withstand an earthquake of magnitude 8, he added.

Banking on a branch visit today? Private and PSU banks have different plans

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

Public sector lenders will open after 2.30 p.m.; private banks will operate as in any other day

Customers planning to visit their bank branches on Monday may take note. Public sector lenders will open after 2.30 p.m. and operate till their regular closing hours, even in States that have declared a public holiday on Monday.

Private banks will operate as in any other day in all States, except Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh that have declared a public holiday in view of the Ram Temple consecration ceremony.

The Reserve Bank of India, headquartered in Mumbai, has announced a holiday for staffers on Monday. Stock markets and money markets will be closed.

However, public sector, or PSU, banks such as the Central Bank of India have instructed staff to report to work after 2.30 p.m., even in Maharashtra. They have cited the Finance Ministry directive that asked PSU banks, financial institutions, regional rural banks and insurers to close operations till 2.30 p.m.

"Some States such as Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh have given full holiday by invoking the Negotiable Instruments Act. So, we are shut in those States, while Uttarakhand is a unique case. Here, most banks, including ours, will work from 2.30 p.m.," said an official at a top private bank.

"In other States, we are as yet mostly open, unless some other guidance comes in," he added. Some large private banks are, however, opting not to open branches in Uttarakhand.

"If we open the branch at 2.30 p.m., there are a couple of hours of banking hours left at best. Neither do we expect many customers to come, nor do we see a point in getting employees to commute to the office to work for such a short time," said a senior official from a large private lender.

A PSU bank employee stationed at the Churchgate branch in south Mumbai echoed the sentiment, stating that her commute will be longer than the two hours she is expected to work after 2.30 p.m.

With the Jammu and Kashmir administration declaring a half-day holiday, private banks were still to firm up whether they would operate during the latter half of the day in the erstwhile State, or just shut branches for the whole day.

Doordarshan to broadcast consecration ceremony

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The consecration event on Monday would be broadcast live through 40 cameras of Doordarshan, the Information and Broadcasting Ministry said on Sunday. Doordarshan will telecast the event in 4K quality on DD News and DD National channels. I&B Secretary Apurva Chandra said Doordarshan would share a clean feed of the event with ANI and PTI.

NMDC Limited
(A Government of India Enterprise)
'Khanij Bhavan', 10-3-311/A, Castle Hills, Masab Tank, Hyderabad-500028
akpadhy@nmdc.co.in, jvenkatesan@nmdc.co.in, ramojirao@nmdc.co.in
(CIN) - L13100TG1958GOI001674

Tender No. HQMM/MOTOR GRADER /1005-23/425 Dated: 22.01.2024

OPEN TENDER NOTICE

Online Tenders are invited through e-Procurement Mode for the following Equipments from reputed manufacturers directly or through their accredited agents in India required for NMDC Ltd, BIOM, Bacheli Complex, Kirandul Complex, Dantewada (Dist) of Chhattisgarh (State) and Panna Project Madhya Pradesh-India.

Description of Equipment	Qty (No.)	Pre-Bid meeting	Display of Tender Document Period	Last date (Tentative) & Time for submission of offer
MOTOR GRADER-**10 No:9 No:** with Gross Power of: 280hp (along with Cost CAP of 6 years/12000 hours, whichever is earlier) and **1 no.** with Gross Power of 155hp (along with initial spares for 2 years / 4000 hours, whichever is earlier)	**10**	05/02/2024 at 11.00 AM	**DRAFT :** 22.01.2024 to 05.02.2024 **FINAL (Tentative dates):** 19.02.2024 to 11.03.2024	11.03.2024 by 02.30 PM

Complete Tender document is available in website **www.nmdc.co.in, www.mstcecommerce.com/eprochome & http://eprocure.gov.in**
Any corrigendum to the above tender will be uploaded only on our website **www.nmdc.co.in** and MSTC portal. The Corrigendum to the tender will not be published in Newspaper. Prospective bidders should visit the above NMDC website / MSTC portal from time to time to take note of corrigendum, if any. For further details logon to Tender Section of our website: **www.nmdc.co.in**.

General Manager (Materials)

TAMIL NADU HOUSING BOARD - CHENNAI CIRCLE-I
(Superintending Engineer, Chennai Circle-I),
Tamil Nadu Housing Board, Chennai-600 035)
E-mail: secctnhb@gmail.com, Ph: 044-24322070

e- Tender Notice No:CC-I/23/2023-24 **Date:19.01.2024**

Name of Work	Approximate Value of works in Lakhs
Construction of 42 HIG flats (Stilt +7 floors) in the land at Mogappair East in Survey No.271/2 pt of Mogappair village, Ambattur Taluk, Chennai District under Self Financing Scheme	Rs.2337.66 (+GST @18%)

1. For Tender document **visit https://tntenders.gov.in** Date and Time for downloading and starting date for submission of tender documents: **25.01.2024 at 11.00AM** and closing date of tender documents: **26.02.2024 at 11.00 AM**. 2. Date and Time of opening of the e-Tender: **26.02.2024 at 11.30 AM** 3. Detailed Tender Notice is available in the **website:https://tntenders.gov.in.**

DIPR/306/TENDER/2024

Superintending Engineer, Chennai circle-I/TNHB

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निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना / NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT)

निम्नलिखित वस्तुओं के लिए योग्य एवं अर्हता प्राप्त निविदाकारों से निविदा आमंत्रित है।/ Tenders are invited from eligible and qualified tenderers for the following Items :

क्र.सं. Sl. No.	माल / सेवाएँ का संक्षिप्त विवरण Brief Description of Goods / Services	मात्रा / Quantity	निविदा सं./ MSTC E- Tender No.	निविदाओं की प्राप्ति के लिए अन्तिम तिथि एवं समय / Closing date and time for receipt of tenders
1	Fragrance Ink Smell of Sandalwood	415 Kgs	SPMCIL/Security Printing Press Hyderabad / Purchase / 9 / 23-24 / ET / 122 (Sandalwood fragrance ink)	**02.02.2024 At 11:00 AM (IST)**
2	Gold Foil	47000 Sq. Mtrs	SPMCIL/Security Printing Press Hyderabad / Purchase / 8 / 23-24 / ET / 121 (Gold Foil)	
3	Poly Carbonate (PC) Sheets & Overlays	1 Lot	SPMCIL/Security Printing Press Hyderabad / Purchase / 10 / 23-24 / ET / 123 (PC Sheets and Overlays)	

अग्रिम विवरण हेतु, कृपया हमारे वेबसाईटः **http://spphyderabad.spmcil.com** & **https://www.mstcecommerce.com/eproc/** देखें तथा कोई भी संशोधन/शुद्धि-पत्र वेबसाईट पर ही प्रकाशित किया जाएगा/For further details, please visit our website at **http://spphyderabad.spmcil.com** & **https://www.mstcecommerce.com/eproc/** & amendment / corrigendum if any, will be published on website only.

हस्ता/Sd-
प्रबंधक एवं सामग्री अध्यक्ष (कृते मुख्य महाप्रबंधक)/
Manager and Head Materials
(For Chief General Manager)

INBRIEF

ED attaches assets in Ginni Gold bank fraud case

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has attached assets estimated at over ₹4.34 crore in connection with a bank fraud case against Ginni Gold Private Ltd. The attached properties are in the form of commercial shops in Delhi's Karol Bagh which belong to Ginni Gold, a group company of Shree Raj Mahal Jewellers Private Ltd., and Ginni Devi and Reena Goel, who are its directors-cum-promoters, said the agency. The ED had initiated the money laundering probe based on a first information report (FIR) alleging that the company and its promoters/directors and others were involved in cheating the Union Bank of India of ₹53 crore.

India keen on cooperation in space with Japan, says Modi

The India Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is looking forward to cooperating with Japanese agency JAXA in the field of space exploration, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said while congratulating his Japanese counterpart, Fumio Kishida, on Tokyo's successful lunar landing. Japan made history on January 20 by becoming only the fifth country to land a spacecraft on the moon, a mission that was helmed by the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency. Japan's smart Lander for Investigating Moon (Slim) landed on the lunar surface near an equatorial crater that was hailed as a major milestone in the country's space exploration. PTI

NISAR Mission on track for a launch soon: NASA official

The NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar Mission is designed to observe natural processes and changes in earth's complex ecosystems; the final tests of the mission are scheduled for this week

Tiki Rajwi
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

> NASA and ISRO are extremely eager to find ways to collaborate on earth science, planetary science and human space (programmes). There is a very, very strong interest
>
> **PAUL A. ROSEN**
> Project Scientist for NISAR at JPL

The NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) Mission, designed to observe natural processes and changes in earth's complex ecosystems, is on track for an "early 2024" launch, a senior official at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) said on Sunday.

The final tests on the earth-observing mission are scheduled for this week, Paul A. Rosen, Project Scientist for NISAR at JPL, told *The Hindu*. "As we speak, everything except the acoustic tests has been completed. The vibration test was completed yesterday [January 20]. Final tests are planned this week. We are on track," Dr. Rosen said.

Dr. Rosen and several of his NASA-JPL colleagues associated with NISAR are scheduled to speak at the Global Science Festival Kerala under way here on Monday.

'Enormous data'

Designed as a low-earth orbit observatory, the NISAR Mission is unique in several respects, not least the enormous amount of reliable, high-resolution data expected from it over a three-year mission life. "The volume of data will be enormous, and it helps us to have a reliable set of measurements over any spot on the earth where we want to do science or monitoring applications, forest management, agriculture monitoring or even just looking at an approaching hurricane," Dr. Rosen said.

The open science and open data policy makes the mission unique in its scope, he said.

"The data will be placed on our respective data servers in India and the U.S. and they will be made open to the public essentially as soon as they are processed to a validated data product. For many SAR (synthetic aperture radar) missions, this is simply not the case," he said.

The mission will use a synthetic aperture radar to scan earth's land and ice-covered regions twice every 12 days in ascending and descending passes. Capable of penetrating cloud cover and operating day and night, NISAR is expected to revolutionise earth-observing capability.

It is also expected to be a reliable data source for disaster monitoring and mitigation.

'Eager to collaborate'

This single observatory solution is equipped with a long wavelength band (L-Band) SAR payload system provided by NASA and a short wavelength band (S-Band) ISRO payload. Operating together, they will supply, the ISRO says, "spatially and temporally consistent data for understanding changes in earth's ecosystems, ice mass, vegetation biomass, sea level rise, groundwater and natural hazards, including earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanoes and landslides."

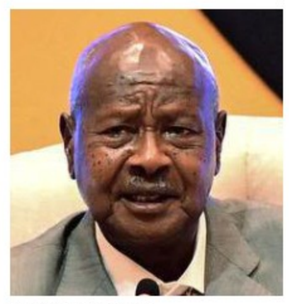
"For those disasters that evolve over slightly longer periods of time or where you can actually plan an observation, like a hurricane approaching, for those things, you have a reliable data source," Dr. Rosen said.

He feels that NASA and the ISRO are interested in taking their collaboration in space forward. "Both sides I think are extremely eager to find ways to collaborate on earth science, planetary science and human space (programmes). There is a very, very strong interest," he said.

Dr. Rosen will speak on "NISAR – an international radar system of systems for groundbreaking earth science" at the festival on Monday.

Museveni regrets Indians' expulsion by Idi Amin in 1970s

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI



Yoweri Museveni

Nearly 52 years after Ugandan dictator Idi Amin expelled the Indian community from his country, President of Uganda Yoweri Museveni on Sunday called that move a "mistake" and expressed gratitude to the Indian community of Uganda for the service that they rendered over the decades. President Museveni's comment which came at the 19th Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) summit held in the capital Kampala was a rare expression of regret about an event that has long been considered one of the traumatic incidents that struck the Indian diaspora in the 20th century.

"Uganda was moving very well in the 1960s and then we had a man called Idi Amin... He came and took over the government. We decided to fight him. But in the very short time he expelled our Asians... who had come from Asia and settled here," Mr. Museveni said.

In August 1972, Amin ordered the expulsion of Indians and other South Asians who were an integral part of the Ugandan life till that point. In the end, around 80,000 Indians and thousands of Pakistanis and Bangladesh citizens were expelled from Uganda. In recent years, several Indians who traced their roots to Uganda under Amin have come into prominence including former U.K. Home Secretary Priti Patel.

Speaking at the NAM summit, President Museveni recalled the contribution of Indians in building the economy of Uganda, and said the convention centre where the 19th NAM summit was held this year was also built by one of those who were affected by Amin's decision.

"When we came into government, we brought them back and gave back properties of our Asian citizens that Idi Amin had taken. We had a hot debate in the Parliament but we said 'no', they must get back their properties," said Mr. Museveni.

India's invitation to Taliban envoy in UAE is 'routine', no change in stance, say officials

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

India has allowed the Afghan Embassy in Delhi to be reopened, but the flag on the embassy has not changed to the Taliban regime's. AP

The invitation from the Indian Embassy in the UAE to the Acting Afghan Ambassador and Taliban envoy Badruddin Haqqani for the Republic Day reception is "routine", official sources said, reacting to criticism that the Modi government is 'normalising' the Taliban regime, especially those responsible for terror attacks on Indian missions in the past.

Badruddin Haqqani, the Charge d'Affaires at the Afghan Embassy in Abu Dhabi, was formerly a member of the Haqqani network, and is believed to be a close associate of its heads, Taliban Interior Minister Sirajuddin Haqqani and his father, Jalaluddin Haqqani.

The sources said that the invitation had gone out as a routine practice to all diplomatic missions accredited by the UAE government, with the exception of Pakistan (with whom India's diplomatic ties are frozen). In addition, the Indian Embassy in Abu Dhabi addressed the invitation to the envoy of the Embassy of the "Islamic Republic of Afghanistan", not the Islamic Emirate, and the sources pointed out that the Afghan Embassy in UAE still flies the Republic tricolour. India too has allowed the Embassy in Delhi, closed down in protest by the previous Ambassador Farid Mamundzay, to be reopened by Afghan Consuls who are more engaged with the Taliban regime, but the flag on the embassy has not changed to the Taliban regime's.

The Haqqani network was held responsible for several attacks on Indian missions in Afghanistan, including the 2008 Kabul Embassy car bombing in which 58 people were killed, including two senior Indian diplomats and two Indian security forces personnel.

The invitation to a member of the group, addressed as "His Excellency Badruddin Haqqani", that was reported on social media by Afghan journalist Bilal Sarwary raised eyebrows among the Indian diplomatic community.

"This [invitation] is utterly against Afghans' basic expectation of India as an emerging democratic power to protect and defend Afghans' human rights and to support their growing resistance against the same terrorists who bombed the Indian Embassy in Kabul and killed and wounded many Indian citizens," Afghanistan's Ambassador to Sri Lanka Ashraf Haidari, who represents the Republic from before the Taliban takeover in 2021, said. "Afghans urge India to end any normalisation of the Taliban," he added.

No country has given recognition to the Taliban regime thus far.

However, in several countries, including Russia, China and Central Asian states, Taliban representatives have been accredited as Acting Ambassadors and the Taliban's black-and-white "Islamic Emirates" flag has been hoisted as opposed to the Republic's black, green and red tricolour.

In December 2023, China even accepted Taliban appointee Bilal Karimi as a fully accredited Ambassador, becoming the first country to do so.

The Ministry of External Affairs did not respond to a question on whether Indian embassies in Beijing, Moscow and other countries would also invite the Afghan envoys accredited by host governments who have been appointed by the Taliban.

81% of citizen responses have affirmed the idea of simultaneous polls: Ministry

Sandeep Phukan
NEW DELHI

The committee has received over 20,000 responses from citizens. FILE PHOTO

The Ram Nath Kovind-led high-level committee on "one nation, one election" has received over 20,000 responses from citizens and 81% of them have "affirmed" the idea of simultaneous polls, a Law Ministry statement said on Sunday.

The Ministry issued a press statement after the committee held its third meeting here. The next meeting will take place on January 27.

"Altogether 20,972 responses were received out of which 81% affirmed the idea of simultaneous election," the statement said.

Suggestions were also invited from 46 political parties and so far, 17 parties have responded.

Recently, Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge had written to the panel, asking it to abandon the idea as it was "undemocratic and violative of the basic structure of the Constitution".

The Law Ministry said the views of the Election Commission were also noted by the committee.

"Additionally, the chairman of the HLC on simultaneous elections, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, has initiated consultations with eminent jurists, former Chief Justices of the Supreme Court and High Courts, former Chief Election Commissioners of India, heads of Bar Council of India, FICCI, ASSOCHAM and CII," read the statement.

Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal, former Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Ghulam Nabi Azad, former Chairman, 15th Finance Commission, K.K. Singh, former Secretary-General, Lok Sabha, Subhash C. Kashyap, and Sanjay Kothari, former Chief Vigilance Commissioner, were among those who attended the meeting.

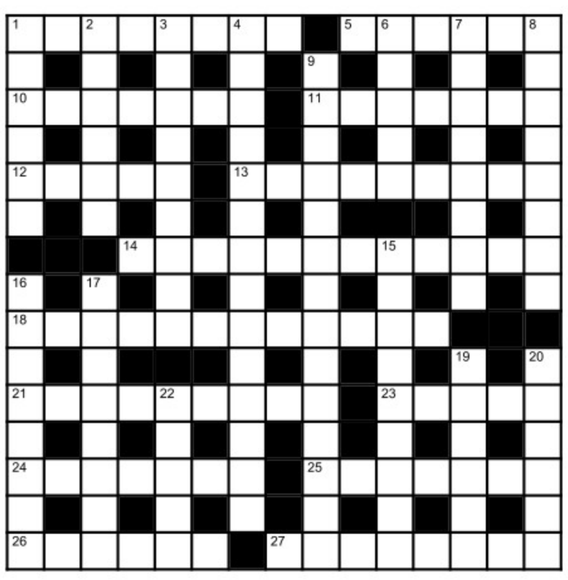
Secretary of the HLC, Niten Chandra, briefed the panel about various follow-up actions on the decision taken at previous meetings.

TH CROSSWORD + 14077

(set by Dr. X)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Degenerate grabbing slim associate in Indian city (8)
5 Arrest drunkard scoring heroin in Palestinian city (6)
10 Son scowled and ranted (7)
11 Everyone with self-confidence accumulating runs at a brisk tempo (7)
12 It's smoked fish after calamari on vacation (5)
13 Old shrew let loose after drinking gin heartily (9)
14 Hires a top doc working in branch of medicine (12)
18 Liquid fat from olive sprinkled over good European food (9,3)
21 Nationalist remains unpleasant, tackling Liberal in American city (9)
23 Plant in container I carry (5)
24 Release by starting to unravel loop in rope securing line (7)
25 Container filled with extremely inert salt (7)
26 Playboy, say, is crazy ex-convict according to Spooner (3,3)
27 Like funny yarns about one inhabitant of ancient kingdom (8)

Down

1 Divide into two parts with secant cutting segment (6)
2 Romeo in severe depression (6)
3 Take prettier models to introduce latest in fashion (9)
4 What matador will do - move finally on time to have a narrow escape (5,3,6)
6 Radiant in silver-blue (5)
7 Containing brown coal, sample abruptly catches fire releasing energy (8)
8 Special agents protecting new king in Russian city (8)
9 Deception by criminals stealing fancy pearl set (5,9)
15 Clearly in depression, overwhelmed by disastrous year (9)
16 Resulting in smooth chess champion winning Cup at centre (8)
17 Terrible gas after eating, disheartened by son's dish (3,5)
19 Youngster wanting date with girl on island in African capital (6)
20 Den in front of cheap topless bar (6)
22 Start to inspect oval-shaped musical instrument (5)

SUDOKU

9		5				8	4	
						7		
		1			7	3		
		6	7		3			
	8	4	5		9	6	7	
			8		4	1		
		7	6			5		
		8						
	1	3				9		6

No.SS6045 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to previous puzzle

S	T	R	E	W	I	N	G	■	S	C	R	E	A	M
U	■	A	■	I	■	O	■	O	■	U	■	M	■	U
B	A	R	O	N	E	T	■	N	O	R	M	A	L	S
T	■	I	■	D	■	O	■	O	■	I	■	C	■	K
L	E	T	U	P	■	N	O	N	M	O	T	I	L	E
E	■	Y	■	R	■	Y	■	E	■	■	■	A	■	T
■	■	■	M	O	T	O	R	S	C	O	O	T	E	R
S	■	I	■	O	■	U	■	D	■	R	■	E	■	Y
L	O	S	T	F	O	R	W	O	R	D	S	■	■	■
O	■	O	■	■	■	N	■	O	■	I	■	M	■	S
V	O	L	U	N	T	E	E	R	■	■	N	E	A	T	H
E	■	A	■	E	■	L	■	S	■	A	■	R	■	O
N	A	T	U	R	A	L	■	T	E	N	U	R	E	D
I	■	E	■	V	■	Y	■	E	■	C	■	O	■	D
A	N	S	W	E	R	■	S	P	E	E	D	W	A	Y

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

6	2	5	8	1	3	7	9	4
3	7	4	5	9	2	1	6	8
9	8	1	4	7	6	3	5	2
8	4	9	2	3	5	6	7	1
1	5	2	6	8	7	4	3	9
7	6	3	1	4	9	2	8	5
5	1	7	3	2	8	9	4	6
4	9	6	7	5	1	8	2	3
2	3	8	9	6	4	5	1	7

FAITH

Blessings of Acharya

An Acharya teaches and helps his disciples to lead a disciplined life. The guru teaches only to the deserving because it is said if he teaches to an undeserving, the teacher will incur the sins committed by the disciples (*sishya papam gurorapi*). Smt. Padma Ranganathan said in a discourse that the preceptors, by their inherent grace, come forward to help sishyas.

As a cowherd, Lord Krishna milked the nectar from the cows like Upanishads and gave the Bhagavad Gita milk to Arjuna. The pure-minded are the drinkers of it. Treading the path shown by Gurus will free people from problems. Sri Vedantha Desika says in "Nigamanaadhikaram" of his work "Rahasyatrayasara" that the paths shown by Acharyas will be clear like a street being cleaned off the weeds, thorns and stones.

A verse in "Swetaswatara" Upanishad says that with the blessings of an Acharya, a disciple learns what is taught and also comes to know many more through Guru bhakti. In the "Maalavikagni Mithram" story, the danseuse Malavika not only exhibited the bhavas taught by her teacher but also displayed other expressions owing to her Guru bhakti.

Lord Krishna says (*vedaischa sarvai: ahameva vedya:*) in the Gita that all the Vedas praise Him.

Make a file copy of any document signed for a financial entity. GETTYIMAGES/ISTOCK

Where the process itself pains

Why can't there be one unified form and procedure for nomination across financial entities and investments? There is no justification, whatsoever, for any disparity

COVERNOTE

K. Nitya Kalyani

Before online nominations, let's see the painful processes that accompany offline nomination forms.

Once you fill the nomination form, with woefully inadequate space and all, you go on to supporting documents and processes.

Usual documents are tax identity information by way of PAN card and one, or two, acceptable address proof documents. Some financial entities/investments require these 'KYC' (Know Your Customer) documents for the nominee as well.

Some forms ask for photographs, thumb impressions and one or two witness signatures along with personal details and maybe even KYC, or a combination of these.

If your nominee is a minor, you have to designate a guardian for the purpose of the nomination and give that person's details.

Need for unified form

Why there can't be one unified form and procedure for nomination across financial entities and investments is a mystery. I am sure the differences are based on the legal status of the investment itself but all this can still be distilled into a single and hopefully, a simple form. There is no justification at any rate for a disparity between the nomination form and process of say, a savings bank account in one bank and another, or of one bond and another, between post office savings investments and the same instruments through a bank?

This list is not complete.

Countersignatures galore

The other thing that gets me very nervous is countersignatures. Yes, if I make a correction in a form I should countersign it to authenticate the modification. In one nomination form that said 'Signature of nominee is mandatory only if nominee photograph is submitted', I made the mistake of not opting for photograph but getting the nominee to sign. The bank asked me to redo the entire form. When I pointed out that when it says mandatory, it means it is ok not to sign it if photo is not given and does not mean that signing it is a violation!

The relationship manager unleashed her panacea! Ma'am, just countersign it there please, she said. I told her with much restraint that she should lodge the form as is and on my responsibility. It went through.

More on countersignatures. After I filled a multiple page form meticulously, a bank representative asked me to place a countersignature on every page.

Why? Just in case there is an error somewhere. I don't think I greyed as fast in a few moments!

To state the obvious, countersigning with abandon just creates the opportunity to add anything, anywhere, afterwards! Beware of this mighty weapon.

And yes, please make yourself a file copy of any, any, ANY document you sign for a financial entity.

(The writer is a business journalist specialising in insurance & corporate history)

Tide may turn: The RBI raised the repo rate to 6.5% from 4%, between May 2022 and February 2023. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

How loan interest rates are expected to move in 2024

RBI's rate-hike cycle may turn into an easing cycle; there are expectations of rate cuts starting globally, in the U.S., eurozone and other economies, sometime in the first half of 2024

RATE TRAJECTORY

Joydeep Sen

To gauge the movement of your existing loan interest rates in 2024, the first criterion is whether it is a fixed or floating rate loan. In a floating rate loan, the rate would move as per the underlying variable. However, it was not smooth earlier. Things improved subsequent to a Reserve Bank of India (RBI) circular in September 2019.

Previously, one of the pet peeves of bank loan customers, and rightfully so, was that banks were quick to raise loan rates when interest rates rose but slow to reduce when rates were easing. In those days, floating rate loans were linked to a benchmark internal to the bank.

An external benchmark is one, the fixing of which is not decided or influenced by the bank. RBI repo rate i.e. rate at which RBI lends to banks for one day at a time, is decided by the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the RBI, hence external to the bank.

If bank loans are benchmarked or linked to an external parameter, changes in interest rates have to be passed on quickly to customers. Historically, when the rates in the economy are sliding or the RBI is giving a signal by reducing the repo rate, banks are often slow in passing on the benefit to existing customers. When the interest rate is rising, banks are relatively fast to react. If the benchmark is external, the bank does not have any control and the reset of loan rates will be more equitable. As per the September 2019 circular, from October of the year, all new floating rate loans should be linked to either the RBI repo rate, or Treasury Bill yield of 3- or 6-month maturities. The bank will charge a margin for costs and expenses.

> For depositors and other investors, since we are talking of the possibility of RBI's rate cuts in 2024, it makes sense to make longer-tenure investments

The circular states rate reset must be done at least once in three months. Hence, the transmission of loan rate changes to the client would not be delayed for long.

Expectations for 2024

There are expectations of interest rate cuts, which are expected to start globally in the U.S., eurozone and other economies, sometime in the first half of calendar year (CY) 2024. That does not have any direct relation to your loan interest rates. This is one of the many variables considered by the RBI for interest-rate decisions. RBI's rate cuts are expected sometime in second half of CY2024. The most important criterion for RBI is inflation trajectory. As and when RBI eases repo rate, your floating-rate loans will be reset accordingly. If the external benchmark is Treasury Bill yield in the secondary market, it will react to RBI rate cuts. Rather, the secondary market reacts in anticipation of RBI moves and starts easing, to a partial extent, even prior to the rate action. Whatever be the external benchmark, the floating rate loan rates are expected to ease in 2024.

> Rate-cut cycle may be shallow, say 50-75 bps; the reason is it is a function of inflation level and MPC's reading on maintaining repo rate higher than the inflation

In perspective, the RBI raised the repo rate from 4% to 6.5%, from May 2022 to February 2023. External benchmark-linked rate (EBLR) has moved up by a full 2.5 percentage points in this cycle. The other benchmark is marginal cost-based lending rate (MCLR). MCLR also is reset at a frequency of 6 to 12 months, depending on the bank. Over this phase, till October 2023, median MCLR had moved up by 1.56% i.e. by an extent lesser than EBLR. Weighted average lending rate of banks, on fresh loans, had moved up by 2%.

However, there is a caveat. Things move in cycles. Equity market goes in cycles, the economy goes through cycles, and same is the case with interest rates.

What we are talking of here is the possibility of a cut in the repo rate from current 6.5%, starting sometime in second half of CY2024. To be noted, the forthcoming rate-cut cycle is expected to be shallow, say 0.50-0.75 percentage point. The reason is, it is a function of inflation level and the MPC's reading on maintaining repo rate somewhere higher than inflation. The other aspect is, sometime in the future, after the easing cycle we are talking of, the interest-rate cycle would turn upwards. The RBI's transparent process ensures that when the rate rises or falls, it is passed on quickly to floating-rate loans.

Surplus deployment

The other aspect, from your perspective, is deposits and other interest rate-related investments. Since we are talking of the possibility of RBI's interest-rate cuts sometime in 2024, it makes sense to make longer-tenure investments.

The current rates are relatively higher. A longer horizon will help you ride out of the easing cycle. You can book bank deposits for longer tenures. If you invest in bonds/debentures directly i.e. not through the mutual fund route, you can buy somewhat longer maturities to enjoy the currently available levels.

(The writer is a corporate trainer (financial markets) and author)

Bank Fixed Deposit Rates

Bank Name	Interest Rates (%) Highest Slab	1-year Tenure	3-year Tenure	5-year Tenure
Small Finance Banks				
AU Small Finance Bank	8.00	6.75	8.00	7.25
Capital Small Finance Bank	7.60	7.50	7.15	7.10
Equitas Small Finance Bank	8.50	8.20	8.00	7.25
ESAF Small Finance Bank	8.25	6.00	6.75	6.25
Fincare Small Finance Bank	8.61	7.65	8.11	8.00
Jana Small Finance Bank	8.50	8.50	7.25	7.25
Suryoday Small Finance Bank	8.65	6.85	8.60	8.25
Ujjivan Small Finance Bank	8.25	8.25	7.20	7.20
Utkarsh Small Finance Bank	8.50	8.00	8.50	7.50
Private Sector Banks				
Axis Bank	7.10	6.70	7.10	7.00
Bandhan Bank	7.85	7.25	7.25	5.85
City Union Bank	7.00	6.75	6.50	6.25
CSB Bank	7.75	5.00	5.75	5.75
DBS Bank	7.50	7.00	6.50	6.50
DCB Bank	8.00	7.15	7.60	7.40
Federal Bank	7.75	6.80	7.00	6.60
HDFC Bank	7.20	6.60	7.00	7.00
ICICI Bank	7.10	6.70	7.00	7.00
IDFC First Bank	7.75	6.50	7.25	7.00
IndusInd Bank	7.50	7.50	7.25	7.25
Jammu & Kashmir Bank	7.10	7.10	6.50	6.50
Karnataka Bank	7.25	6.95	6.50	6.50
Karur Vysya Bank	7.50	7.00	7.00	6.50
Kotak Mahindra Bank	7.25	7.10	7.00	6.20
Nainital Bank	7.05	6.70	6.25	5.75
RBL Bank	8.00	7.50	7.50	7.10
SBM Bank India	8.25	7.05	7.30	7.75
South Indian Bank	7.40	6.70	6.60	6.00
Tamilnad Mercantile	7.00	7.00	6.50	6.50
Public Sector Banks				
Bank of Baroda	7.25	7.25	7.25	7.25
Bank of India	7.25	7.25	7.25	7.25
Bank of Maharashtra	7.00	7.00	7.00	7.00
Canara Bank	7.25	7.25	7.25	7.25
Central Bank of India	7.25	7.25	7.25	7.25
Indian Bank	7.25	7.25	7.25	7.25
Indian Overseas Bank	7.10	7.10	7.10	7.10
Punjab National Bank	7.25	7.25	7.25	7.25
Punjab & Sind Bank	7.40	7.40	7.40	7.40
State Bank of India	7.10	7.10	7.10	7.10
Union Bank of India	7.25	7.25	7.25	7.25

Home Loan Interest Rates

Name of Lender	Loan Amount (Rs.) Upto 30 lakh	Above 30 lakh & upto 75 lakh	Above 75 lakh
			(In %)
Public Sector Banks			
State Bank of India	8.40-10.15	8.40-10.05	8.40-10.05
Bank of Baroda	8.40-10.65	8.40-10.65	8.40-10.90
Union Bank of India	8.35-10.75	8.35-10.90	8.35-10.90
Punjab National Bank	8.45-10.25	8.40-10.15	8.40-10.15
Bank of India	8.30-10.75	8.30-10.75	8.30-10.75
Canara Bank	8.50-11.25	8.45-11.25	8.40-11.15
UCO Bank	8.45-10.30	8.45-10.30	8.45-10.30
Bank of Maharashtra	8.35-11.15	8.35-11.15	8.35-11.15
Punjab and Sind Bank	8.50-10.00	8.50-10.00	8.50-10.00
Indian Overseas Bank	8.40*	8.40*	8.40*
Central Bank of India	8.45-9.80	8.45-9.80	8.45-9.80
Private Sector Banks			
Kotak Mahindra Bank	8.70*	8.70*	8.70*
ICICI Bank	8.75*	8.75*	8.75*
Axis Bank	8.70-13.30	8.70-13.30	8.70-9.10
HSBC Bank	8.45*	8.45*	8.45*
South Indian Bank	9.84-11.24	9.84-11.04	9.84-11.69
Karur Vysya Bank	8.95-11.00	8.95-11.00	8.95-11.00
Karnataka Bank	8.58-10.58	8.58-10.58	8.58-10.58
Federal Bank	8.80*	8.80*	8.80*
Dhanlaxmi Bank	9.35-10.50	9.35-10.50	9.35-10.50
Tamilnad Mercantile Bank	9.45-9.95	9.45-9.95	9.45-9.95
Bandhan Bank	9.16-15.00	9.16-13.33	9.16-13.33
CSB Bank	10.69-12.54	10.69-12.54	10.69-12.54
HDFC Bank	8.35*	8.35*	8.35*
City Union Bank	12.35 - 14.10	12.85 - 14.60	13.35 - 14.85
Housing Finance Companies (HFCs)			
LIC Housing Finance	8.35-10.35	8.35-10.55	8.35-10.75
Bajaj Housing Finance	8.50*	8.50*	8.50*
Tata Capital	8.70*	8.70*	8.70*
PNB Housing Finance	8.50-14.50	8.50-14.50	8.50-11.45
GIC Housing Finance	8.80*	8.80*	8.80*
SMFG India Home Finance	10.50*	10.50*	10.50*
Indiabulls Housing	8.75*	8.75*	8.75*
Aditya Birla Capital	8.80-14.75	8.80-14.75	8.80-14.75
ICICI Home Finance	9.20*	9.20*	9.20*
Godrej Housing Finance	8.55*	8.55*	8.55*

Rates as on January 17 Source:Paisabazaar.com

Asset location is important

THINKINVESTOR

It is important to choose investments that increase post-tax returns; the issue is there aren't too many tax-efficient investments to reach goals if you are typical middle-class working official

Venkatesh Bangaruswamy

It is crucial to pick investments that raise post-tax returns. The issue is there aren't too many tax-efficient investments to achieve goals if you are a typical middle-class working official. Here, we discuss about asset-location decision for goal-based investments.

Asset location

The first step in investment process is to decide on how much to invest in equity and bonds to achieve a goal. This is the asset allocation-decision. The second is how to invest tax-efficiently to achieve asset allocation. This is the asset location decision. It refers to where to locate investments – taxable, tax-deferred or tax-exempt location.

There is a limit on how much to invest in tax-exempt location. You can invest a maximum of ₹1.5 lakh a year in public provident fund (PPF) and ₹2.5 lakh a year in provident fund (PF). This means you can invest up to ₹4 lakh a year in tax-exempt location. Note, we are referring to the tax incidence on investment returns, not the deduction on investments; you can only claim ₹1.5 lakh as Section 80C benefit in any year.

The argument suggests you can derive maximum tax benefit when investing for retirement, as PPF and PF are considered retirement savings. You can also use PPF to fund child's college education if the maturity of the account (typically 15 years) coincides with the time your child enters college.

Conclusion

Your goal-based portfolio will typically carry equity and bond investments. Your equity investments will be in passive or active funds. Your bond investments will be in bank deposits earning interest income. The tax locations for these investments are well defined. As your life goals will be for more than one year, your equity investments will be treated as long-term assets (except the systematic investment plans you make within the last 12 months of the time horizon for a life goal). So, your equity investments will attract long-term capital gains tax and will be in the tax-deferred location; you must pay taxes when you realise the gains.

The interest on your bond investments (including accrued interest) will attract your marginal tax rate and will be in taxable location. In short, you may not have many investment avenues for your asset location.

That said, do consult your auditor and understand how to improve your asset location decision.

(The author offers training programme for individuals to manage their personal investments)

BEIRUT

Two Hezbollah fighters killed by Israeli drone in south Lebanon

AFP

Two Hezbollah fighters were killed on Sunday when an Israeli drone hit their vehicle in southern Lebanon, security sources said. It was the latest strike in an area where Israel has targeted dozens of Hezbollah fighters. Earlier, a drone killed two and injured four others near the village of Kafra 8 km from the border. REUTERS

MUNICH

Tens of thousands protest against far-right AfD party in Germany

AFP

Tens of thousands gathered across Germany again on Sunday to protest the far-right AfD party, after it emerged that party members discussed mass deportation plans at a meeting of extremists. The influx was so large in Munich that organisers were forced to cancel a planned march and ask people to disperse for safety reasons. AFP

WARSAW

Polish President criticises EU's executive wing for blocking funds

AFP

Polish President Andrzej Duda criticised the European Commission for blocking EU funds in what he said had been "an attempt to force Poland to change" its government. Poland's last government led by the nationalist PiS party was embroiled in a dispute with the EU over Warsaw's judicial reforms and the rule of law. REUTERS

LONDON

U.K. taking election interference threats 'very seriously': Shapps

AFP

The U.K. is taking threats of foreign interference elections expected later this year "very seriously", Defence Minister Grant Shapps said after a warning from a counter-terrorism official. Counter-terrorism chief Matt Jukes had said that the espionage threat from foreign states is greater now than it has been "since the cold war". AFP

'Palestinian tax funds to be held by third country'

Reuters
JERUSALEM

Israel's Cabinet on Sunday approved a plan for frozen Palestinian tax funds to be held by a third-party country, and reserved the right to decide when the money will be transferred to the Palestinian Authority (PA).

Under interim peace accords, Israel's Finance Ministry collects tax on behalf of the Palestinians and makes monthly transfers to the PA.

But there have been constant wrangles over the arrangement, and the Palestine Liberation Organisation said it wanted the money in full and would not accept conditions that prevent it from paying its staff, including in Gaza.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said the Cabinet decision was supported by Norway and the U.S., which will be a guarantor that the framework holds.

Death toll from Israeli strikes on Gaza surpasses 25,000

More than 62,000 injured since the start of war; Hamas calls its October 7 attack a 'necessary step'; Netanyahu rejects Hamas's demand for troop withdrawal in exchange for release of hostages

Associated Press
GAZA STRIP

The toll of Palestinians killed in Israeli strikes on the Gaza Strip since war broke out between Israel and Hamas in October has passed 25,000, Gaza health officials said, while Israeli attacks and street battles raged across the Hamas-run enclave on Sunday.

Israeli forces and Hamas fighters clashed in several places, from Jabalia in the north to Khan Younis in the south, the focus of recent Israeli operations.

Israel said its troops had cleared much of northern Gaza of Hamas's military network and more than a million residents of that part of the enclave have moved south to flee the bombardments. However fighting has continued in the Jabalia refugee camp and other areas around Gaza City.

Running amok: Israeli soldiers travel near Israel's southern border with Gaza as smoke rises in the Gaza Strip on Sunday. AP

Gaza's Health Ministry said 178 Palestinians were killed in the past 24 hours, one of the deadliest days of the war so far. Israel's military said a soldier was killed in fighting.

A total of 25,105 Palestinians – many of them women and children – have been killed and 62,681 have been wounded in Israeli strikes since October 7, the ministry said in a statement. It does not differentiate between civilian and militant deaths but says most of those killed have been civilians.

In a statement on Sunday, Hamas called its October 7 assault a "necessary step".

"It was a defensive act in the frame of getting rid of the Israeli occupation, reclaiming the Palestinian rights and on the way for liberation and independence," Hamas said. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Sunday rejected conditions presented by Hamas to end the war and release hostages that would include Israel's complete withdrawal and leaving Hamas in power in Gaza.

"In exchange for the release of our hostages, Hamas demands the end of the war, the withdrawal of our forces from Gaza, the release of all the murderers and rapists," Netanyahu said in a statement. "And leaving Hamas intact."

"I reject outright the terms of surrender of the monsters of Hamas," Mr. Netanyahu said.

Palestine state prerequisite for ties with Israel: Saudi

Reuters
WASHINGTON

Saudi Arabia's Foreign Minister said there can be no normalisation of ties with Israel without resolving the Palestinian issue, he told CNN in an interview that aired on Sunday.

Asked if there could be no normal ties without a path to a credible and irreversible Palestinian state, Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud told CNN's Fareed Zakaria: "That's the only way we're going to get the benefit. So, yes, because we need stability and only stability will come through the resolving the Palestinian issue."

De-escalation of the conflict in Gaza and halting civilian deaths is a key focus of Saudi Arabia, the Minister said.

"What we are seeing is Israelis crushing the civilian population of Gaza," he said. "This is unacceptable and has to stop."

Permanent loss: A man mourns his wife who was killed while working at a food market in Donetsk on Sunday. REUTERS

25 killed in attack on crowded market in Russia-held Donetsk

Agence France-Presse
MOSCOW

A strike on a crowded market in the Russian-occupied city of Donetsk in eastern Ukraine left at least 25 people dead and 20 wounded on Sunday, Moscow-backed officials said.

Both Moscow and Kyiv have accused each other of a sharp escalation in attacks on civilian areas in the past two months.

"At the moment, information about 25 dead has been confirmed. At least 20 more people have been injured," said Denis Pushilin, head of the region's Russian-controlled administration. He blamed Ukraine for the strike, calling it a "horrific" attack on a civilian area.

Officials said the strike hit a southwestern suburb of the city, less than 15 km from the eastern front.

The toll marks one of the deadliest in Donetsk since Moscow launched full-scale hostilities against Ukraine in February 2022.

Donetsk, occupied by Russia and its proxy forces since 2014, has been repeatedly targeted by what Moscow has called indiscriminate Ukrainian shelling.

Gas terminal ablaze

News of the attack came as Russia reported another blaze on its energy infrastructure, this time at a gas terminal in the Baltic Sea port of Ust-Luga.

Kyiv earlier this week claimed responsibility for two attacks on oil depots in Russia, including one in the same Leningrad region where Ust-Luga is located.

Operator Novatek said there were no victims and the fire was "currently localised" at the site, some 110 km west of St Petersburg. Novatek said the fire was caused by an "external factor".

Meanwhile, the Russian Army captured the village of Krakhmalnoye in the Kharkiv region of eastern Ukraine. Some 45 people lived in the village previously. It is 30 km southeast of the regional hub of Kupiansk – an important railway junction that had a pre-war population of around 30,000 – which Russia has been pushing to take over.

Imran Khan warns of instability in Pakistan in absence of fair polls

Press Trust of India
ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's jailed former Prime Minister Imran Khan sought a level playing field for his party in the run-up to the February 8 general elections, saying a lack of fairness in conducting polls would lead to further "instability and uncertainty". The remarks by the founder of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party, came during a media interaction at the Adiala Jail on Saturday.

He said the PTI candidates "are being harassed and detained" to stop them from contesting elections. Mr. Khan said the establishment could not "dismantle the party since it has roots in the masses".

Four of six passengers rescued as plane bound for Russia crashes in Afghanistan

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

While the plane had stopped to refuel in Bihar's Gaya, Centre dismissed reports that it originated from India

A Moroccan-registered small passenger plane that made a refuelling stop in Gaya, Bihar, on Saturday crashed in Badakhshan province in Afghanistan hours later. Four of the six aboard the aircraft were found alive, and rescue operations continue to trace the remaining onboard.

The aircraft involved was a Dassault Falcon-10. The aircraft was operating as an air ambulance flying between Thailand and Moscow in Russia, the Ministry of Civil Aviation said in a statement, dismissing initial foreign media reports that the plane involved was an Indian one.

According to the Federal Agency of Air Transport of Russia, Rosaviatsia, on the evening of Saturday, January 20, the aircraft stopped communicating and disappeared from radar screens. There were six persons on board the plane, which included four crew members and two passengers. It originated from Utapao airport in Thailand, and was destined for Zhukovsky in Russia.

It added that the plane belonged to Athletic Group LLC and a private individual.

According to Afghanistan's Tolo News, the pilot and three others have survived the crash, adding that rescue efforts were underway to find the rest of the survivors.

Sport

KARNATAKA ROUND-UP

Semenistaja bests Monnet for title

Top seed Darja Semenistaja won the KPB Trust ITF Women's Open tennis after the injured Carole Monnet conceded in the final in Bengaluru on Sunday. Darja led 6-1, 3-0 when Carole called it quits due to a troublesome back.

DYES defeats AGORC

A match winning field goal by left-out Bipin helped DYES, Bengaluru, beat AGORC, Bengaluru, 1-0 and clinch the title in the Mysore Invitation Cup men's hockey in Mysuru on Sunday.

FC Bengaluru beats Kenkre

FC Bengaluru recorded a 4-2 win over Kenkre FC in a I-League 2 football clash at the Dravid & Padukone COE in Bengaluru.

The result:

FC Bengaluru 4 (C. Lyngdoh 82, 90+3, O.P. Jerry 32, Ashley Alban 40) bt Kenkre FC 2 (Subha Ghosh 45, Raul Almeida 47).

Champion Semenistaja and Monnet pose with their trophies. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Selvamurugan wins

B. Selvamurugan won Category 'B' of the 1st Bangalore International Grandmasters Open chess tournament on Sunday. Selvaraghavan was tied with 12-year-old Madhesh Kumar at the end of 10 rounds with nine points. Selvamurugun's superior tie-break score earned him the winner's trophy and cash prize of ₹1,25,000.

Young footballer passes away

Bangalore Eagles football player K. Monish passed away here due to an accident on Sunday. He was 28.

Monish was competing in the BDFA 'A' division football league. The BDFA has postponed the 'A' division match between Bangalore Eagles and Blitz FC.

Monish had previously played for Deccan FC, Parikrma FC, ADE and other clubs.

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah condoled Monish's demise on 'X'.

"Sad to hear the news of the death of famous football player of the state, K. Monish. He was seriously injured in an accident last night and was being treated at the hospital, I believed that he would recover, but now that belief is false. It is very sad that a young talent who was supposed to grow even higher in sports life met his end in this way. May the soul of the deceased rest in eternal peace," Siddaramaiah posted on 'X'.

Monish had also earned his AIFF 'D' License coach badge.

The BDFA, KSFA and Referee Committee condoled his demise. He is survived by his father, mother and elder sister.

Dictator wins the Deccan Bookmakers Welfare Association Darley Arabian Million

HYDERABAD: Trainer K.S.V. Prasad Raju's Dictator, piloted by P. Sai Kumar, won the Deccan Bookmakers Welfare Association Darley Arabian Million, the feature event of Sunday's (Jan. 21) races.

The winner is owned by Mr. & Mrs. Shapoor P. Mistry rep. Manjri Horse Breeders Farm Pvt. Ltd., & Mr. D.R. Thacker.

1. YADADRI PLATE: HOPING STAR (Md. Ismail) 1, Silver Act (Akash Rajput) 2, Deccan Daisy (P. Sai Kumar) 3 and Rochelle (Santosh Raj) 4. 2-1/4, Shd and 3/4. 1m 13. 80s. ₹302 (w), 22, 13 and 13 (p). SHP: 33, THP: 46, SHW: 61 and 24, FP: 1,318, Q: 172, Tanala: 2,825. Favourite: Silver Act.

Owner: Mr. Deepak Choudhary. Trainer: Jasbir Singh.

2. SURYAPET PLATE: TRISHUL (Antony Raj S) 1, Caraxes (Afroz Khan) 2, Alpine Girl (Shivansh) 3 and Voice Of A Dream (P. Ajeeth Kumar) 4. 1/2, 2 and 6-1/2. 2m 5. 55s. ₹20 (w), 12, 12 and 15 (p). SHP: 40, THP: 53, SHW: 13 and 18, FP: 106, Q: 61, Tanala: 303. Favourite: Trishul.

Owner: Col. S.B. Nair. Trainer: L.V.R. Deshmukh.

3. LINGAPUR CUP: ROYAL PARADE (Nakhat Singh) 1, Glorious Power (Afroz Khan) 2, Rollys Royce (R.S. Jodha) 3 and Cannon Rose (P. Sai Kumar) 4. 1-1/4, 2 and 3/4. 1m 13. 97s. ₹101 (w), 15, 12 and 10 (p). SHP: 38, THP: 39, SHW: 32 and 15, FP: 425, Q: 139, Tanala: 1,029. Favourite: Rolls Royce.

Owner: Mr. Al Murugappan. Trainer: K. Satheesh.

4. ADALA RAGHAVA REDDY MEMORIAL MILLION: RUBY RED (P. Sai Kumar) 1, Encore (Md. Ekram Alam) 2, Brooklyn Beauty (Ajay Kumar) 3 and N R I Doublepower (Imran Chisty) 4. 2, 3/4 and Shd. 1m 25. 96s. ₹18 (w), 10, 30 and 25 (p). SHP: 66, THP: 58, SHW: 10 and 34, FP: 133, Q: 125, Tanala: 1,048. Favourite: Ruby Red.

Owners: Mr. Cyrus S. Poonawalla & Mr. Adar C. Poonawalla rep. Villoo Poonawalla Racing & Breeding Pvt. Ltd., Mr. Mukul Sonawala, Mr. D.R. Thacker rep. DT Racing & Breeding LLP & Mr. Saleem Fazelbhoy. Trainer: Laxman Singh.

(Note: In this race while negotiating the bend Carlisle (Shivansh up) stumbled and dislodged the rider, while Terenga (Antony Raj seated) who was racing behind clipped the heels of the former and dropped the jockey. Both Shivansh and Antony escaped unhurt).

5. DECCAN BOOKMAKERS WELFARE ASSOCIATION DARLEY ARABIAN MILLION (GR. 3): DICTATOR (P. Sai Kumar) 1, Lashka (Antony Raj) 2, In Proposito (Kaviraj) 3 and Born Brave (Imran Chisty) 4. 4-3/4, 9 and 3-1/4. 1m 12. 60s. ₹24 (w), 12 and 12 (p). SHP: 22, THP: 31, SHW: 16 and 10, FP: 48, Q: 18. Favourite: Lashka.

Owners: Mr. & Mrs. Shapoor P. Mistry rep. Manjri Horse Breeders Farm Pvt. Ltd., & Mr. D.R. Thacker. Trainer: K.S.V. Prasad Raju.

6. ROCK HEAVEN PLATE: TOFFEE (Md. Ekram Alam) 1, Only My Way (Mukesh Kumar) 2, N R I Ultrapower (Shivansh) 3 and Beauty Flame (Ajay Kumar) 4. 1-1/2, 1/2 and 1m 40. 29s. ₹39 (w), 20, 24 and 21 (p). SHP: 96, THP: 53, SHW: 27 and 55, FP: 547, Q: 462, Tanala: 3,240. Favourite: N R I Ultrapower.

Owner: M.A.M. Ramaswamy Chettiar Of Chettinad Charitable Trust. Trainer: K. Satheesh.

Jackpot: 70%: ₹6,187 (37 tkts.), 30%: 601 (163 tkts.).

Mini Jackpot: 3,825 (14 tkts.).

Treble: (i) 6,137 (4 tkts.), (ii) 480 (93 tkts.).

TALISMAN

Gavaskar backs 'Viratball' to counter England's 'Bazball'

FILE PHOTO: VIJAY SONEJI

Sunil Gavaskar has backed 'Viratball' to counter England's 'Bazball' approach in the Test series. "The way Kohli has been batting, his movement looks good. We have Viratball to counter Bazball. England wants to play attacking cricket no matter the situation. It'll be interesting to see if this works against Indian spinners."

REPLACEMENT

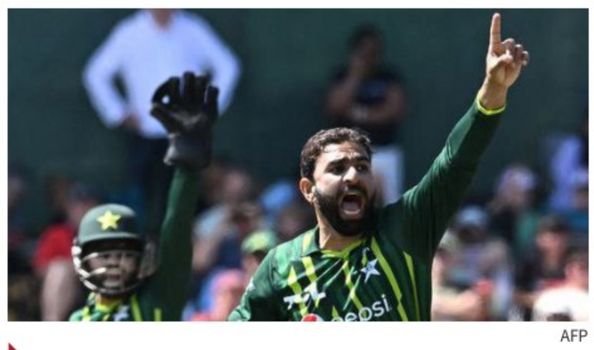
Brook returns home; Lawrence to join England squad for India series

FILE PHOTO

Middle-order batter Dan Lawrence will replace Harry Brook in the England squad for the upcoming five-match Test series against India after the latter returned home because of personal reasons, the ECB announced on Sunday. Lawrence has made 551 runs from 11 matches at an average of 29 with four fifties.

CONSOLATION WIN

Pakistan avoids whitewash against New Zealand



AFP

Pakistan won the fifth T20I defeating New Zealand by 42 runs in Christchurch on Sunday to avoid a clean sweep in the five-match series. **The scores**: Pakistan 134/8 in 20 overs (Mohammad Rizwan 38, Fakhar Zaman 33) bt New Zealand 92 in 17.2 overs (Glenn Phillips 26, Iftikhar 3/24). **Toss**: Pakistan. NZ won series 4-1.

RESOLUTE

Tamil Thalaivas reigns supreme against Bengaluru Bulls

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Tamil Thalaivas banked on some incredible raiding and resolute defending to clinch a 45-28 victory against Bengaluru Bulls in the Pro Kabaddi League in Hyderabad on Sunday. Narender and Ajinkya Pawar, with 14 and 11 points respectively, were excellent for Thalaivas as was its captain Sagar with five tackle points.

Clinical Djokovic polishes off Mannarino, enters quarterfinals

USA's Fritz beats Tsitsipas, will face the Serb in the last-eight stage; Sinner, yet to drop a set in the edition, advances; Sabalenka, Gauff cruise to the next stage after downing Anisimova and Frech respectively

AUSTRALIAN OPEN

Associated Press
MELBOURNE

Easy-peasy: Djokovic dominated proceedings and beat Mannarino 6-0, 6-0, 6-3. GETTY IMAGES

Achieving yet another record at the Australian Open put Novak Djokovic in a reflective mood, revealing how he thought things might change after he'd clinched that historic 24th major title.

Djokovic played his best two sets "in a while" in a 6-0, 6-0, 6-3 demolition of Adrian Mannarino on Sunday to reach the quarterfinal at a Major for the 58th time, equalling Roger Federer's Grand Slam record.

It's his 14th run to the last eight at Melbourne Park, where his conversion rate is incredible. Of the previous 13, he's gone on to win 10 Australian titles.

"I thought maybe I would this year feel slightly more relaxed, for lack of better term, or maybe less tension, less stress on practice sessions, matches," he said.

In the quarterfinal he'll be facing No. 12-ranked Taylor Fritz, who reached the stage in Australia for the first time with a 7-6(3), 5-7, 6-3, 6-3 win over 2023 runner-up Stefanos Tsitsipas.

Djokovic was asked about both potential rivals, and said he was confident if he played to his level. No surprise to Fritz, who is 0-8 against Djokovic..

No. 4 Jannik Sinner hasn't dropped a set en route the quarterfinal, with the Italian beating No. 15 Karen Khachanov, nor have women's defending champion Aryna Sabalenka and U.S. Open winner Coco Gauff.

Sabalenka will next play 2021 French Open champion Barbora Krejcikova, who dropped the first set but rallied for a 4-6, 6-3, 6-2 win that ended 16-year-old Mirra Andreeva's bid to become the youngest Australian Open quarterfinalist since Martina Hingis in 1997.

No. 2-ranked Sabalenka, who won her first Slam title here last year, beat Amanada Anisimova 6-3, 6-2. Gauff, who picked up her first major at the U.S. Open in September, beat Magdalena Frech 6-1, 6-2.

Gauff, who next faces Marta Kostyuk of Ukraine, was the first woman through, needing just 63 minutes to see off Frech in a match played on Rod Laver Arena – in front of the Australian great. "Luckily when I saw him come in I was already well up," Gauff said.

"I heard clapping and knew it wasn't for us, it was only the first set. But thank you for coming, it's an honour."

Australian hope Alex de Minaur was playing No. 5 Andrey Rublev in the night match to determine who will face Sinner in the quarterfinal.

Sinner advanced 6-4, 7-5, 6-3 over Khachanov.

FOURTH ROUND RESULTS

Men: 1-Djokovic (Srb) bt 20-Mannarino (Fra) 6-0, 6-0, 6-3.

12-Fritz (USA), bt 7-Tsitsipas (Gre) 7-6(3), 5-7, 6-3, 6-3.

4-Sinner (Ita) bt 15-Khachanov 6-4, 7-5, 6-3.

Women: 4-Gauff (USA) bt Frech (Pol) 6-1, 6-2; 2-Sabalenka bt Anisimova (USA) 6-3, 6-2. Kostyuk (Ukr) bt Timofeeva 6-2, 6-1; 9-Krejcikova (Cze) bt Andreeva 4-6, 6-3, 6-2.

Fallen seeds
Men: 7-Tsitsipas, 15-Khachanov, 20-Mannarino.

Chirag-Satwik fall at the final hurdle, again

INDIA OPEN

Rakesh Rao
NEW DELHI

Not their day: Chirag and Satwik finished second best to the Korean duo of Seung Jae and Min Hyuk. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Notwithstanding a sound start, Chirag Shetty and Satwiksairaj finished second best to Koreans Kang Min Kyuk and Seo Seung Jae in three games and fell short of regaining the India Open title won here in 2022.

If the Koreans pulled off a 15-21, 21-11, 21-18 win in 65 minutes, their calm approach and self-belief held the key.

Cheered by the home crowd, the Indians entered the court holding a 4-1 lead in head-to-head encounters against the Koreans. The confidence of having beaten the Koreans for a third successive time – in the semifinals of the Malaysia Open last Saturday – was evident as Chirag and Satwik were off to a flyer.

In the 18-minute first game, Indians stayed in control. The speedy Koreans kept up until 8-all before the World No. 2 began to assert.

In the second, the left-right combination from Korea led from the start, won nine points in a row to lead 16-5 and before long, the match entered the decider.

Koreans continued their control from 2-3 and never trailed again in the match, and eventually triumphed.

"The loss of early points in the second game helped the Koreans settle down to play the way they normally do. We couldn't stop them and soon started thinking about the decider," said Chirag. Satwik stated, "If we had kept our cool and drawn level in the second half of the final game, the pressure would have been on them. But they played very cleverly and never took the pressure."

Earlier, China's Shi Yuqi regained the men's singles title won in 2018 and Chinese Taipie's Tai Tzu Ying claimed her maiden singles crown here.

The results (finals, prefix denotes seeding):
Men's singles: 6-Shi Yuqi (Chn) bt Lee Cheuk Yiu (Hkg) 23-21, 21-17. **Women's singles:** 4-Tai Tzu Ying (Tpe) bt 2-Chen Yufie (Chn) 21-16, 21-12.
Men's doubles: 3-Kang Min Kyuk & Seo Seung Jae (Kor) bt 2-Chirag Shetty & Satwaiksairaj Rankireddy 15-21, 21-11, 21-18.
Women's doubles: 8-Mayu Matsumoto & Wakana Nagahara (Jpn) bt 6-Zhang Shu Xian & Zheng Yu (Chn) 21-12, 21-13.
Mixed doubles: 6-Dechapol Puavaranukroh & Sapsiree Taerattanachai (Thai) bt 5-Jiang Zhengbang & Wei Yaxin (Chn) 21-16, 21-16.

Sania has been divorced for a few months now, reveals father

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Sania. FILE PHOTO: RITU RAJ KONWAR

Six-time Grand Slam winner Sania Mirza conveyed "best wishes" to her former husband and ex-Pakistan cricket captain Shoaib Malik "for his new journey ahead" a day after he took to social media to share pictures of his wedding with Pakistani actor Sana Javed.

In a text message, Sania's father Imran Mirza said that his daughter had always kept her personal life away from the public eye. "However, today the need has arisen for her to share that Shoaib and she have been divorced for a few months now," he said.

"At this sensitive period of her life, we would like to request all fans and well-wishers to refrain from mudslinging in any speculation and to respect her need for privacy," the statement said on Sunday.

Real makes wild comeback win against Almeria

EURO LEAGUES

Agence France-Presse
MADRID

Last-minute winner: Carvajal squeezed in a goal in the 99th minute to crush Almeria. AP

Real Madrid produced a controversial comeback to beat winless Almeria 3-2 on Sunday and moved provisionally to the top of LaLiga. Dani Carvajal rammed home the winner in the 99th minute to settle a wild and hugely entertaining clash at the Santiago Bernabeu.

Bottom side Almeria took a two-goal lead in the first half through Largie Ramazani's 38th minute strike and a screamer from Edgar Gonzalez. However, Madrid battled back to triumph as Jude Bellingham converted a penalty and Vinicius Junior used his upper arm to divert home an equaliser, before Carvajal's last-gasp winner.

Mitchell Weiser stunned his former club with the only goal as Werder Bremen defeated Bayern Munich, keeping Bayer Leverkusen seven points clear at the top. It was the first time since February 2020 that Bayern had failed to score in Bundesliga.

The results: Premier League: Sheffield United 2 (Brereton Diaz 44, McBurnie 90+12-pen) drew with West Ham 2 (Cornet 28, Ward-Prowse 79-pen); AFC Bournemouth 0 lost to Liverpool 4 (Nunez 49, 90+3, Jota 70, 79). **LaLiga:** Osasuna 3 (Garcia 9, Munoz 31, Areso 80) bt Getafe 2 (Mayoral 64, Maksimovic 68); Real Madrid 3 (Bellingham 57-pen, Vinicius 67, Carvajal 90+9) bt Almeria 2 (Ramazani 1, Gonzalez 43). **Serie A:** Frosinone 3 (Mazzitelli 64, Soule 75, Jorge 90+5) bt Cagliari 1 (Sulemana 26); Empoli 3 (Zurkowski 13, 38, 74) bt Monza 0.
Bundesliga: Bayern Munich 0 lost to Werder Bremen 1 (Weiser 59). **On Saturday: Premier League:** Brentford 3 (Toney 19, Mee 58, Maupay 68) bt Nottingham Forest 2 (Danilo 3, Wood 65).
LaLiga: Villarreal 1 (Sorloth 45+1) drew with Real Mallorca 1 (Llabres 90+1); Valencia 1 (Duro 61) bt Athletic Bilbao 0; Celta Vigo 0 lost to Real Sociedad 1 (Mendez 11). **Bundesliga:** RB Leipzig 2 (Simons 7, Openda 56) lost to Bayer Leverkusen 3 (Tella 47, Tah 63, Hincapie 90+1).
Serie A: Roma 2 (Lukaku 19, Pellegrini 25) bt Verona 1 (Folorunsho 76); Udinese 2 (Samardzic 42, Thauvin 62) lost to AC Milan 3 (Loftus-Cheek 31, Jovic 82, Okafor 90+3).

Gukesh shares lead, Vidit stuns Firouzja

CHESS

Sports Bureau

Vidit Gujrathi. FILE PHOTO: VELANKANNI RAJ

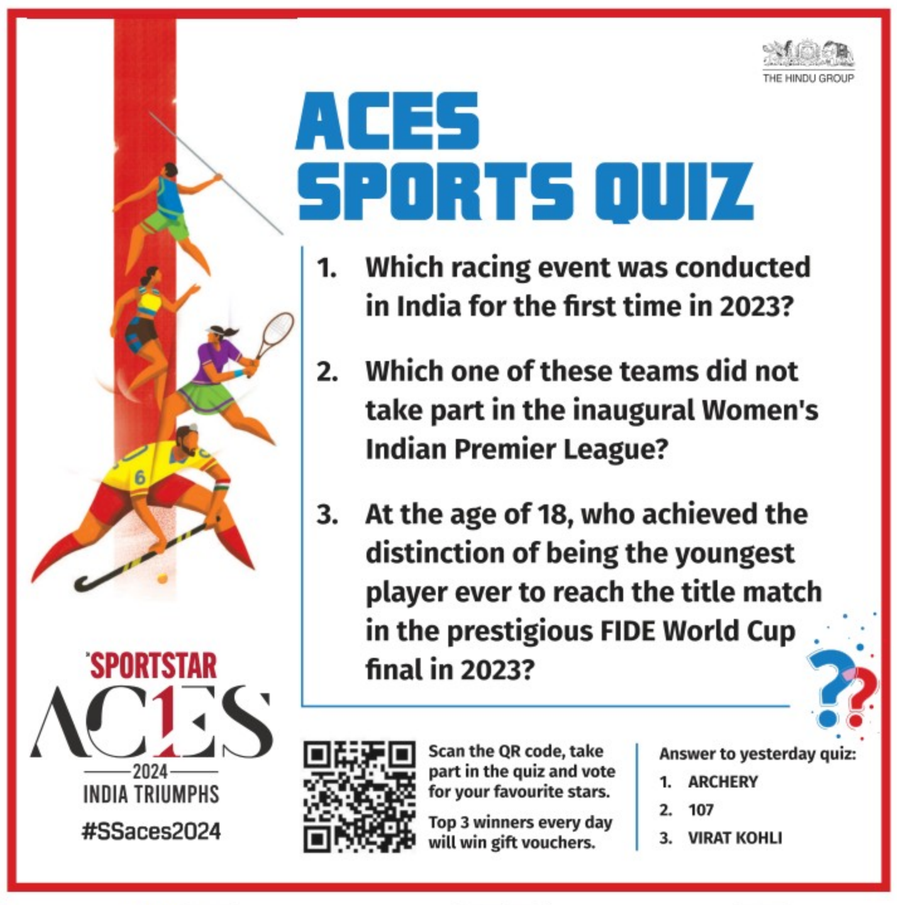
D. Gukesh completed a hat-trick of victories when he nailed Dutch Max Warmerdam after Vidit Gujrathi ended his sequence of six draws by delivering a seventh-round shock to Alireza Firouzja in the Tata Steel Masters chess at Wijk aan Zee on Saturday.

With six rounds to go, Gukesh shared the lead with Anish Giri and his latest conqueror, Nodirbek Abdusattorov at 4.5 points. Vidit, R.Praggnanandhaa and Firouzja were jointly in the fourth spot with four points.

In the Challengers section, Divya Deshmukh ended a three-loss streak with an impressive win over Dutch rival Liam Vorlijk, who defeated Leon Mendonca in the previous round.

Mendonca (4) also tasted victory at the expense of Belgian Stefan Beukema (2) to share the fifth spot at four points. d leader Salem Saleh (5).

The results (seventh round): Masters: D. Gukesh (4.5) bt Max Warmerdam (Ned. 3.5); Vidit Gujrathi (4) bt Alireza Firouzja (Fra, 4); R. Praggnanandhaa (4) drew with Jorden van Foreest (Ned, 2); Nodirbek Abdusattorov (Uzb, 4.5) bt Anish Giri (Ned, 4.5); Parham Maghsoodloo (Iri, 2) drew with Ian Nepomniachtchi (FIDE, 3.5); Wei Yi (Chn, 3.5) drew with Ding Liren (Chn, 3.5); Alexander Donchekno (Ger, 2) drew with Ju Wenjun (Chn, 3).
Challengers: Leon Mendonca (4) bt Stefan Beukema (Bel, 2); Divya Deshmukh (2.5) bt Liam Vorlijk (Ned, 3); D. Harika (3) drew with Anton Korobov (Ukr, 4.5); Eline Roebers (Ned, 2) lost to Salem Saleh (UAE, 5); Erwin L'Ami (Ned, 4.5) lost to Jaime Santos Latasa (Esp, 4); Marc Andria Maurizzi (Fra, 4.5) drew with Mustafa Yilmaz (Tur, 3); Daniel Dardha (Bel, 3.5) drew with Hans Moke Nielmann (USA, 3.5).



Karnataka takes first-innings lead vs Goa

Jose scores second First Class century as 80 of his runs come through ones and twos; Misal picks up six wickets for the vistors

RANJI TROPHY

N. Sudarshan
MYSURU

The attritional battle between Karnataka and Goa continued on day three of their Ranji Trophy encounter at the SDNR Wadiyar Stadium here.

From an overnight 253 for four, Karnataka rode on Nikin Jose's second First Class century (107, 215b, 6x4) to take a 177-run lead. But K.V. Siddharth led the fightback with a delectable half-century (57 batting, 74b, 8x4, 1x6) to leave the visitor 93 for one at stumps, 84 runs behind.

Though a win for Goa is a long shot, it can take heart in not allowing Karnataka to run away with the game. The host has to break the gridlock in the first session on Monday if it fancies getting more than three points.

Putting his head down: Jose anchored the Karnataka innings with aplomb. K. BHAGYA PRAKASH

On Sunday, the crowd at the University of Mysore was treated to two contrasting styles of batsmanship from Jose and Siddharth, but both first-rate.

Under pressure after totalling just 34 runs from four previous outings, and with his seasoned teammate Manish Pandey unable to bat, Jose anchored the Karnataka innings meticulously.

The 23-year-old started the morning with a punched four off Arjun Tendulkar, but 80 of his runs came in ones and twos, with Sharath Srinivas proving the ideal foil (49, 100b, 4x4) as the duo combined for 148 runs.

When given the opportunity, though, Jose breached the ropes with aplomb, like the back-foot punch off pacer Felix Alemao to reach his fifty and the cut behind square off tweaker Deepraj Gaonkar.

Jose's dismissal was however unlucky, with a fierce pull off Darshan Misal ricocheting off the short-leg fielder Gaonkar's helmet into the hands of Snehal Kauthankar at slip.

Goa's Siddharth, on the other hand, scored at a brisk rate, showcasing some glorious drives and whiplashes. His stand-out shot was the stunning six over cover off speedster V. Koushik.

Siddharth's assurance did not quite rub-off on partner Suyash Prabhudessai (34 batting, 82b, 3x4). The latter looked tentative against the spinners and it was a pity that Karnataka's left-armers Rohit Kumar and Shubhang Hegde struggled on a track where their Goan counterpart Misal finished with a six-for (six for 134).

The scores:
Goa — 1st innings: 321.
Karnataka - 1st innings: D. Nischal lbw b Misal 16, Mayank Agarwal c Gadekar b Misal 114, Devdutt Padikkal c Misal b Redkar 103, Nikin Jose c Kauthankar b Misal 107, Rohit Kumar c Dubhashi b Redkar 2, Sharath Srinivas c Kauthankar b Misal 49, Shubhang Hegde lbw b Misal 36, M. Venkatesh lbw b Redkar 3, V. Vyshak c Dubhashi b Misal 8, V. Koushik (not out) 9; Extras (b-24, lb-9, w-12, nb-6): 51; Total (for nine wkts. decl. in 126.4 overs): 498.

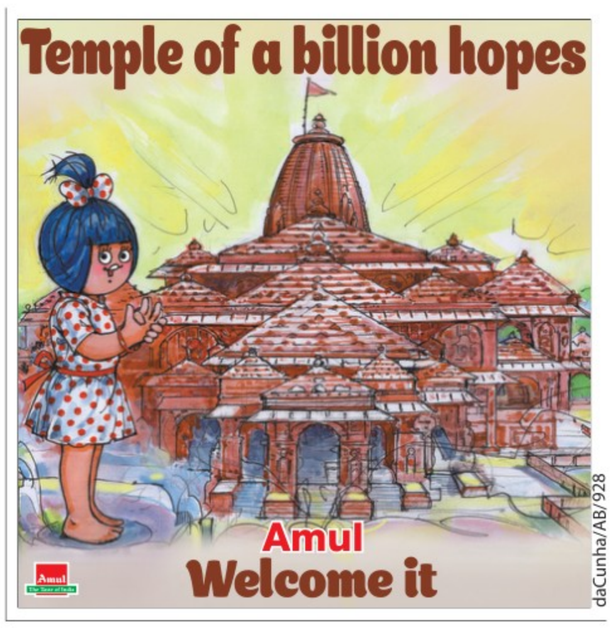
Fall of wickets: 1-27, 2-238, 3-246, 4-253, 5-401, 6-473, 7-478, 8-482.

Goa bowling: Tendulkar 15-1-70-0, Parab 18-0-63-0, Misal 47.4-4-134-6, Redkar 32-4-119-3, Alemao 13-1-69-0, Gaonkar 1-0-10-0.

Goa — 2nd innings: Ishaan Gadekar b Vyshak 1, Suyash Prabhudessai (batting) 34, K.V. Siddharth (batting) 57; Extras (w-1): 1; Total (for one wkt. in 27 overs): 93.

Fall of wicket: 1-1.

Karnataka bowling: Koushik 7-1-27-0, Vyshak 4-0-18-1, Rohit 6-0-27-0, Shubhang 7-0-17-0, Venkatesh 3-2-4-0.



RANJI SCORES, ROUND 3, DAY 3

Elite: Group-A: At Jodhpur: Maharashtra 189 & 184 in 69.5 overs (Siddhesh Veer 59, Khaleel Ahmed 4/19) lost to Rajasthan 270 & 106/0 (Abhijeet Tomar 53 n.o., Yash Kothari 52 n.o.). **Points: Rajasthan 6(8), Maharashtra 0(10)**.

At Delhi: Jharkhand 316 in 110.3 overs vs Services 315/3 in 95 overs (Ravi Chauhan 133 batting, Rajat Paliwal 111).

At Nagpur: Saurashtra 206 & 244 in 89.2 overs (Cheteshwar Pujara 66) bt Vidarbha 78 & 134 in 45.2 overs (Chirag Jani 5/51). **Saurashtra 6(9), Vidarbha 0(13)**.

Group-B: At Dibrugarh: Andhra 188 & 334 in 90 overs (Hanuma Vihari 63, Ricky Bhui 125, Shaik Rasheed 40 n.o., Sidharth Sarmah 5/66) vs Assam 160 & 81/5 in 24 overs (Riyan Parag 46 batting).

At Kolkata: Bengal 381/8 decl. in 128 overs (Anustup Majumdar 71, Abishek Porel 114) vs Chhattisgarh 27/2 in 9 overs.

Pujara completed 20,000 runs in First Class cricket, becoming the fourth Indian to reach the mark after Gavaskar, Tendulkar and Dravid. PTI

At Thumba: Mumbai 251 & 319 in 97.4 overs (Jay Bista 73, Bhupen Lalwani 88, Jalaj Saxena 4/80, Shreyas Gopal 4/82) vs Kerala 244 & 24/0.

At Meerut: Bihar 187/7 in 79.1 overs (Sharman Nigrodh 87, Sakibul Gani 41) vs Uttar Pradesh.

Group-C: At Mysuru: Goa 321 & 93/1 in 27 overs (K. Siddharth 57 batting) vs Karnataka 498/9 decl. in 126.4 overs (Nikin Jose 107, Srinivas Sharath 49, Darshan Misal 6/134).

At Coimbatore: Tamil Nadu 489 in 144 overs bt Railways 246 & 114 in 44 overs (Sai Kishore 4/43, Ajith Ram 4/40). **TN 7(8), Railways 0(6)**.

At Mohali: Punjab 78/7 in 30 overs vs Tripura.

At Chandigarh: Gujarat 86/2 in 26 overs vs Chandigarh.

Group-D: At Indore: Madhya Pradesh 171 & 251 in 78.1 overs (Himanshu Chauhan 4/69, Hrithik Shokeen 4/61) bt Delhi 205 & 131 in 53.5 overs (Vaibhav Kandpal 49 n.o.). **MP 6(10), Delhi 0(1)**.

At Dharamsala: Baroda 482 in 129.3 overs bt Himachal Pradesh 184 & 280 in 70.3 overs (Akash Vasisht 43 retd. hurt, Gurvinder Singh 59, Nikhil Gangta 58 n.o., Bhargav Bhatt 4/32). **Baroda 7(19), HP 0(3)**.

At Dehradun: Pondicherry 204 & 131 in 41 overs (Deepak Dhapola 6/32) bt Uttarakhand 123 & 157 in 54.3 overs (Kunal Chandela 45, Yuvraj Chaudhary 46, Gaurav Yadav 7/53). **Pondicherry 6(12), Uttarakhand 0(7)**.

At Cuttack: Odisha 130 & 198 in 43 overs (Sandeep Pattnaik 100 n.o., Auqib Nabi 4/73) vs Jammu & Kashmir 180 & 72/4.

Plate: At Anand: Arunachal Pradesh 265 & 134 in 52 overs (Techi Doria 56, Mohit Jangra 5/62, K.C. Cariappa 5/35) lost to Mizoram 323 & 80/2 in 12.1 overs. **Mizoram 6(9), Arunachal Pradesh 0(0)**.

Solitary goal win for MCFC against CFC

SUPER CUP

Sports Bureau

Mumbai City overcame a stiff challenge from Chennaiyin FC to defeat the latter by a solitary goal in the concluding Group-C match of the Kalinga Super Cup in Bhubaneswar and secured a place in the semifinals.

Hmingthanmawia Ralte nodded home the only goal of the match in the 24th minute to secure full points to ensure the team finished with an all win record (nine points).

Chennaiyin FC earned numerous scoring opportunities but failed to convert the chances, allowing Mumbai City, which was served well by its goalkeeper Phurba Lachenpa, to win.

Mumbai City will now face the winner of Monday's match between Odisha FC and FC Goa in the semifinals on January 25.

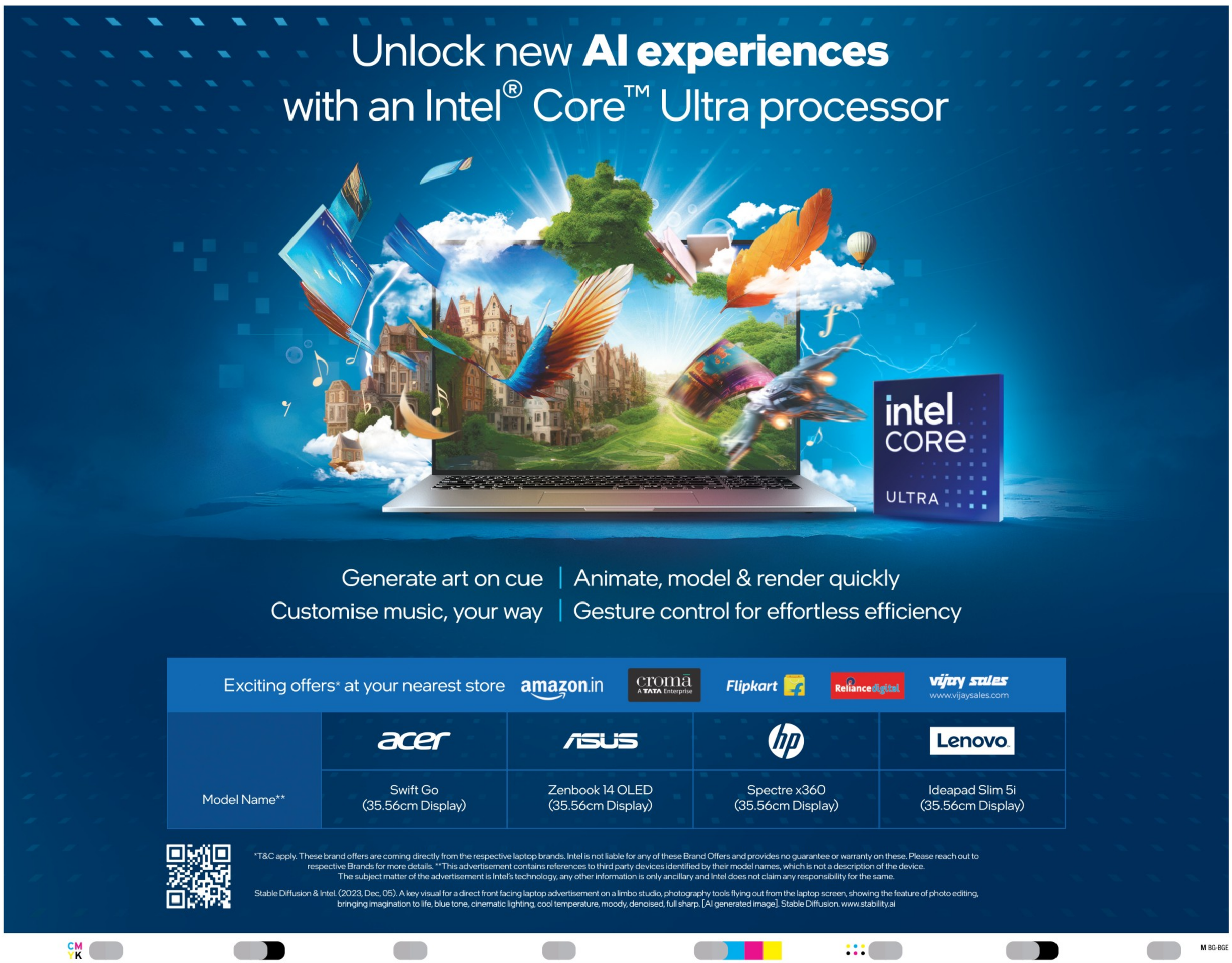
The results: Mumbai City FC 1 (Hmingthanmawia Ralte 24) bt Chennaiyin FC 0.
Punjab FC 0 drew with Gokulam Kerala FC 0.

Arlin bags boys' sabre gold

KHELO GAMES

Sports Bureau
CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu continued to do well in fencing with A.V. Arlin bagging the boys' sabre gold edging out Haryana's Lakshya Badses 15-14 in the 6th Khelo India Youth Games held here on Sunday.

Arlin.

The results: Judo: Boys: 50Kg: 1. Vashisht Shivansh (Pun); 2. Sadashiva Moolya Mohit (Mah); 3. Debbarma Rickson (Tr) & Tang Tada (AN); **55Kg:** 1. Sagar Anurag; 2. Arora Nakul (Pun); 3. H. Someer Om (Mah) & V. Yohenba (Man). **Girls: 40Kg:** 1. Sapna (CH); 2. Sommya Rani Kadapala (AP); 3. Kritika Soni (HP) & Neelam (Utr). **48Kg:** 1. Tannu Mann (Del); 2. Jaanvi Yadav (Del); 3. Bhakti Bhosale (Mah) & Nancy (Har). **44Kg:** 1. N. Ankita (Guj), 2. Deeksha (Del); 3. M. Roshvina (Man) & Yuvika Tokas (Del). **Fencing (finals): Boys: Sabre:** A.V. Arlin (TN) bt Lakshya Badeses (Har) 15-14; **Foil:** Abhinash (Man) bt Tejas Patil (Mah) 15-9. **Yogasana (final): Traditional yoga:** 1. S.H. Navya (TN) 64.75 pts; 2. Aranya Hutait (WB) 64.42; 3. Ritu Mondal (WB) 63.5. **Kabaddi (semifinals): Boys:** Har bt Mah 45-28; Raj bt TN 41-23. **Hockey: Boys: Group A:** Odisha bt TN 6-1; **Girls:** Chhattisgarh bt TN 6-0. **In Coimbatore: Basketball: Men: Group A:** UP bt Mizoram 109-52; TN bt Karnataka 99-72; **Women: Group A:** TN bt Chandigarh 109-45; Maharashtra bt Kerala 81-54.